China TOURISM

JANUARY 1995
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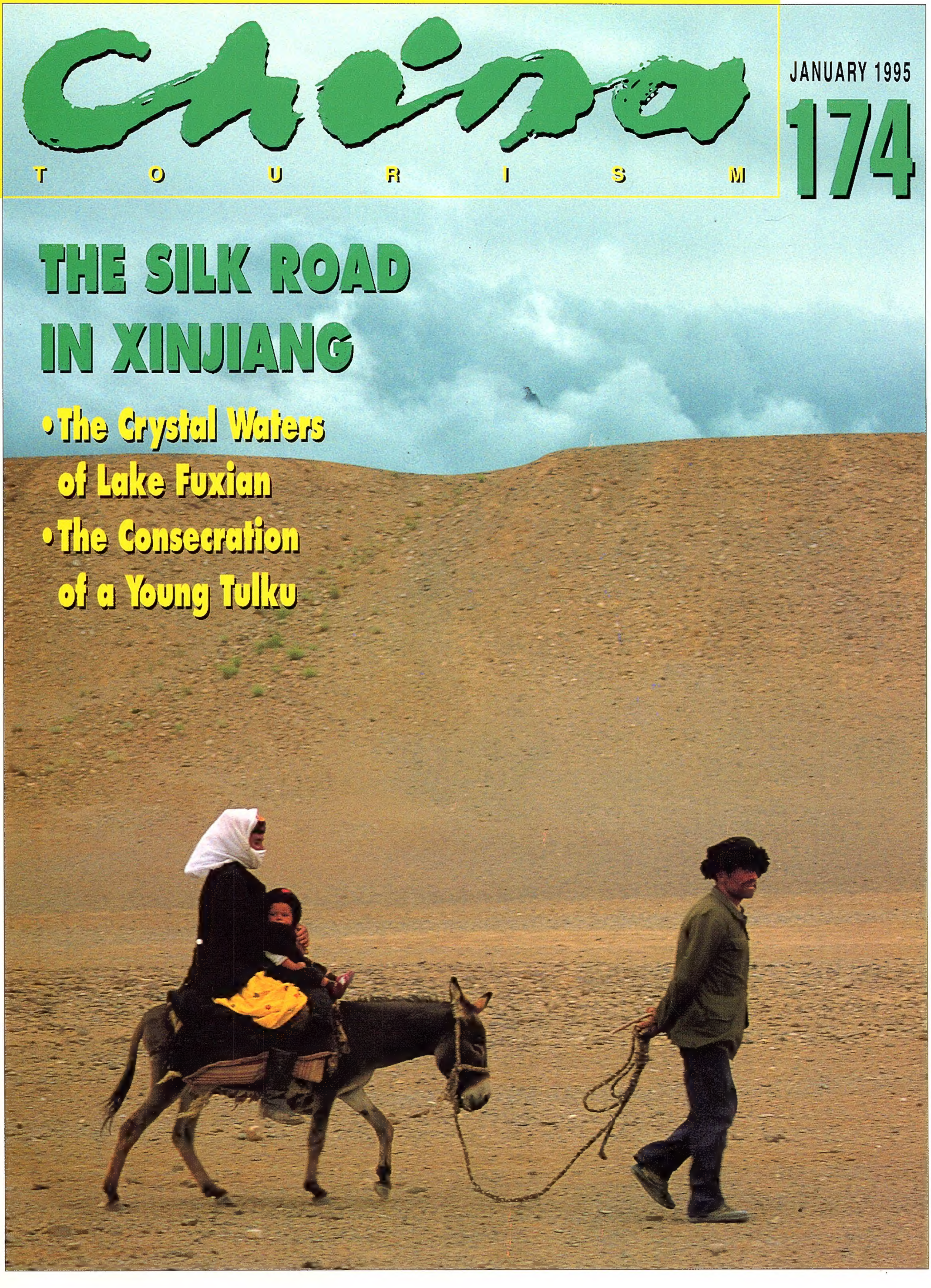

THE SILK ROAD IN XINJIANG

- The Crystal Waters of Lake Fuxian
- The Consecration of a Young Tulku

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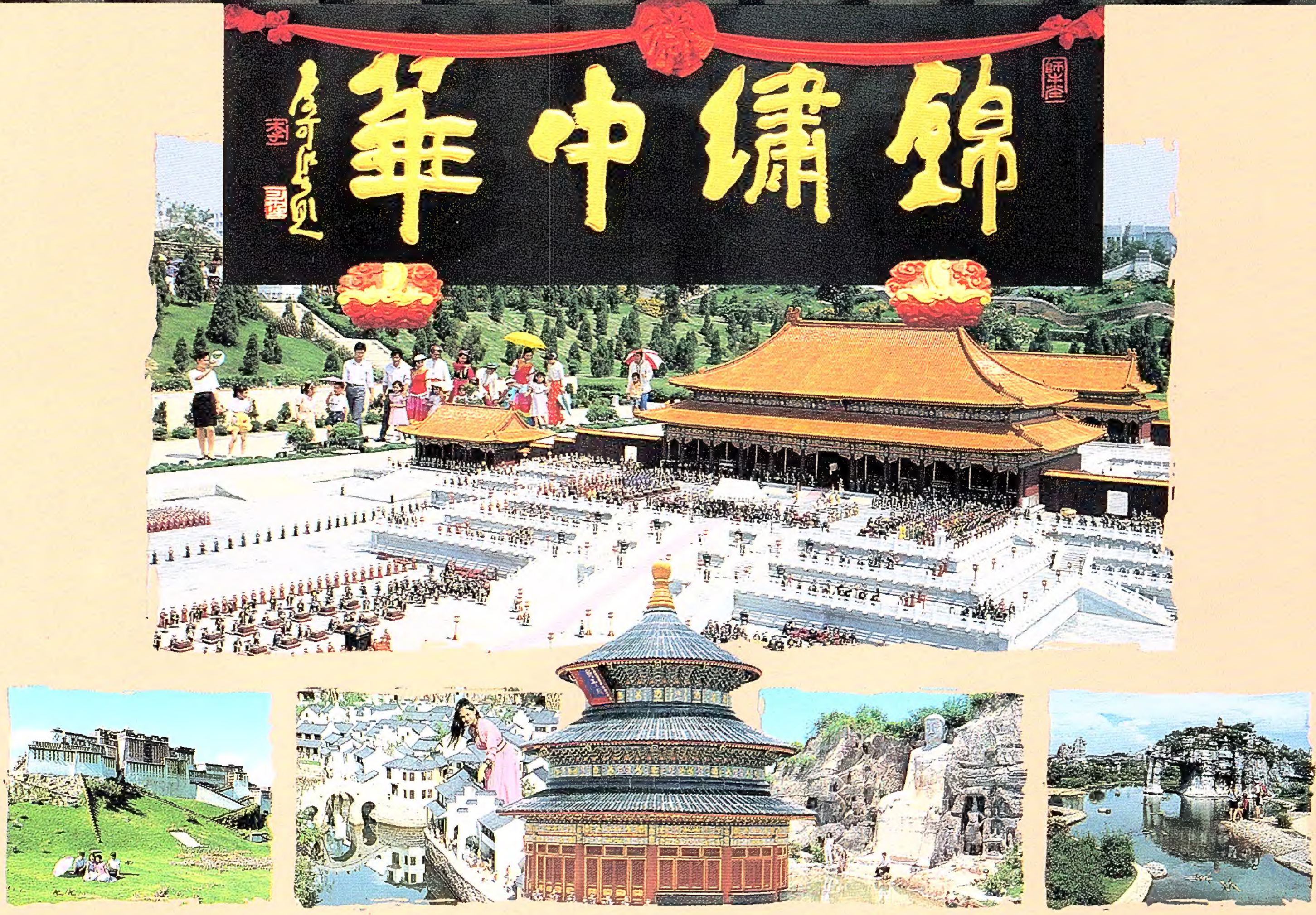

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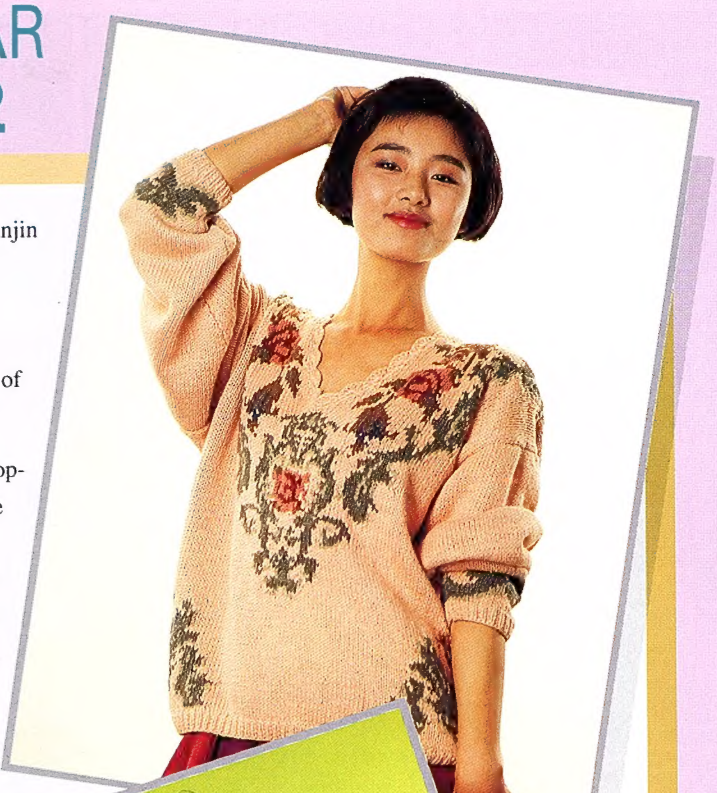

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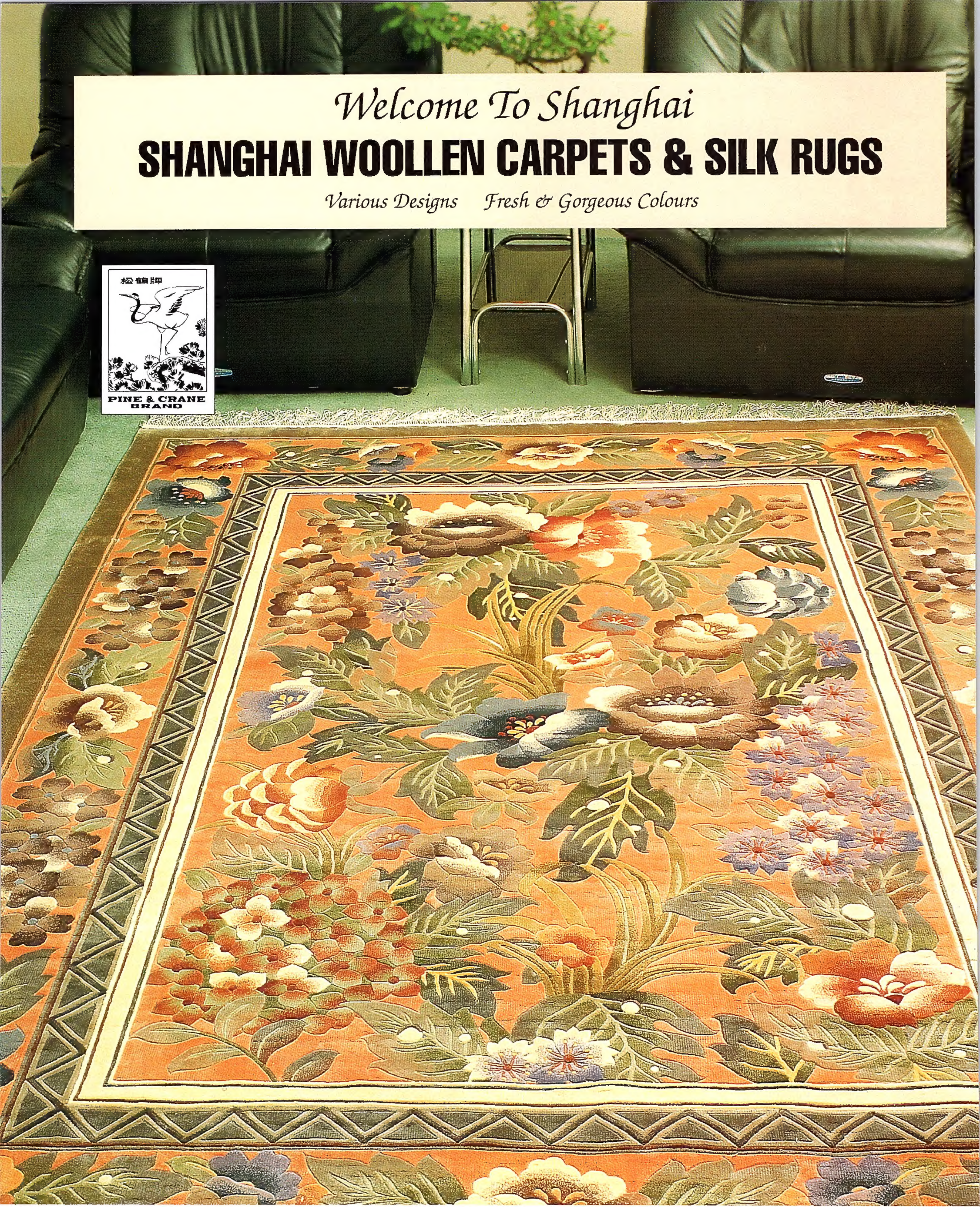

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The Charm and Fascination of the Silk Road in Xinjiang

Among the world's great journeys, the one most redolent of history and most geographically fascinating is without doubt the great Silk Road. The name conjures up images of streams of caravans winding from Chang'an (present-day Xi'an in Shaanxi Province) to the heart of the Roman Empire, carrying jewels, spices, silk and ideas.

There were actually many different routes that the Silk Road followed. In China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region there were three distinct routes, the Northern, Central and Southern, which were favoured for different reasons during different times. All of them were arduous and dangerous, but passed through some of the most spectacular and awe-inspiring scenery. They were all important in their day, politically and economically, and have left fascinating historical relics in their wake.

Although the Silk Road has been largely superseded by more modern means of transport, it has lost none of its romantic charm and fascination. In this issue of *China Tourism*, we travel the three routes in Xinjiang, following in the footsteps of the hardy traders of the past, visiting the ruins of the ancient cities and meeting the local people who live along the routes.

We also travel to Lake Fuxian in central Yunnan Province, China's second deepest highland lake, a beautiful jewel set amongst the mountains of Yunnan. In Sichuan Province, near the border of the Tibet Autonomous Region, we witness the consecration ceremony for the reincarnation of a Tulku, a fascinating and unusual Buddhist practice. In Henan Province, we go to the Chen Family Glen, a small valley which is the home of one family who founded the art of Taijiquan, and where it has been practised for generations.

From the old to the new, places, people, scenes and sights, *China Tourism* brings you the best of China.

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The Road That Brought Buddhism to China — The Central Route of the Silk Road in Xinjiang 24

Article by Kang Jie

Known as the Northern Route in the Han Dynasty, this route started from present-day Hami, passing the ruins of Jiaohe City in Turpan Basin, the southern slope of the Tianshan Mountains and the Tarim River. Then it headed westward to Kashi, from where left the country via Taxkorgan. Famous historical cities along the route include Gaochang, Jiaohe, Luntai, Qiuci and Shule.

Ancient Towns in the Desert — The Southern Route of the Silk Road in Xinjiang 32

Article by Bao Xiu

A hub of transportation from Yangguan to the Western Regions during the Han Dynasty, this route was also the earliest international thoroughfare. Once a hard route, now deserted, this road passing through barren fields and deserts was taken by Monk Xuan Zang of China to India and Italy's Marco Polo to Chang'an, capital of ancient China.

The Road on the Endless Grassland — The Northern Route of the Silk Road in Xinjiang 40

Article by Shu Feng

Also known as the New Northern Route, this route started from Yiwu (present-day Hami) along the southern slope of the Tianshan Mountains, then passing across the mountains to the north to Mori, Jimsar and the Urümtqi area before leaving the country. Dating back to the Western Han Dynasty, it became more important during the Sui and Tang dynasties.

LANDSCAPES AROUND CHINA

The Crystal Waters of Lake Fuxian 52

Photos by Peng Zhen Ge
Article by Sun Jiong, Ji Yadong & Shi Bao Xiu

One of the highland lakes, Fuxian is located just south of the capital Kunming in central Yunnan Province. With its crystal clear waters the lake offers much unique scenic beauty.

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The Consecration of a Young Tulku 58

Photos & Article by Ge Jialin

At Kangding, Sichuan's gateway to Tibet, a celebration of Sakyamuni's birthday is held annually on the eighth day of the fourth lunar month (usually in May). The celebrations last year coincided with the consecration of a young Tulka, an unusual event in this area.

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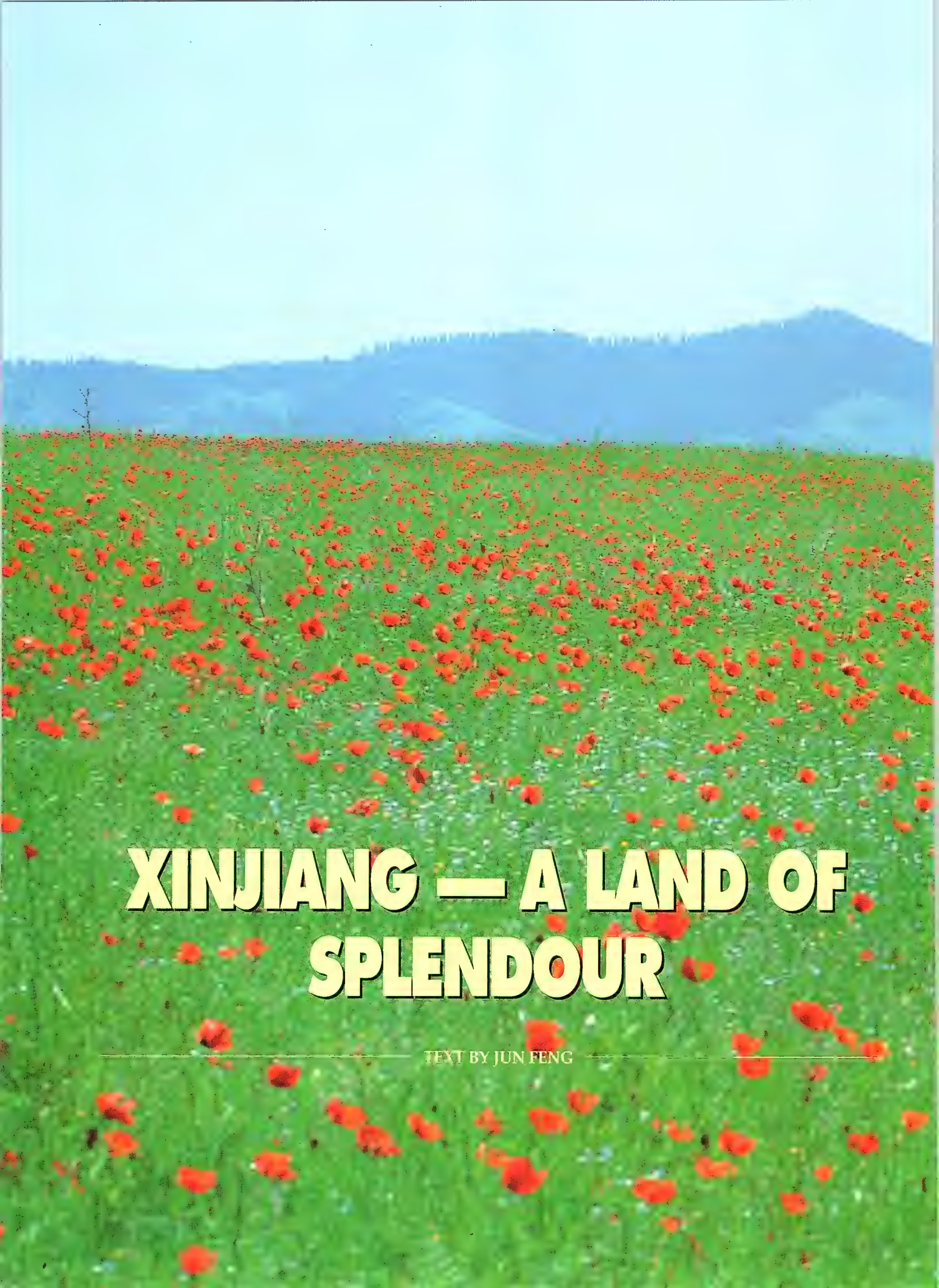


XINJIANG — A LAND OF SPLENDOUR

TEXT BY JUN FENG

The Kazak Grassland at Ili

Red poppy flowers bloom on the lush grassland against the backdrop of the green mountains. Whenever Kazakh herders gallop past on horseback, the air is full of the sound of their laughter.

Pine Trees on the Tianshan Mountains

Running through the centre of Xinjiang, the Tianshan Mountains are a natural demarcation line between northern and southern Xianjiang. Permanently snow-covered, the mountains are famous for the Tianshan pine trees which grow on its slopes. These sturdy evergreens often achieve ages of over 400 years.

Urho "Ghost City" at Karamay

At Urho in Karamay, hills and peaks eroded by the wind for centuries look like a complex piece of architecture. The power of nature is constantly surprising. When the winds rise at night, it sounds like the wailing of ghosts and the howling of wolves, and sends cold shivers down one's spine. For this reason, the site is known as "Ghost City".

The Gurbantünggüt Desert

Located at the centre of the Junggar Basin in northern Xinjiang, the Gurbantünggüt is the second largest desert in China. The annual rainfall here is greater than any other places in the area, providing moisture sufficient for the growing of plants in the desert.

Pasture on the Northern Slopes of the Tianshan Mountains

The snow line separates the northern slope of the Tianshan Mountains into separate worlds of green and white. The cold temperatures in the area 4,000 metres above sea level cannot prevent the grass growing in the pasture below it, and herds and flocks find the grazing land a veritable paradise.

The Flaming Mountain at Turpan

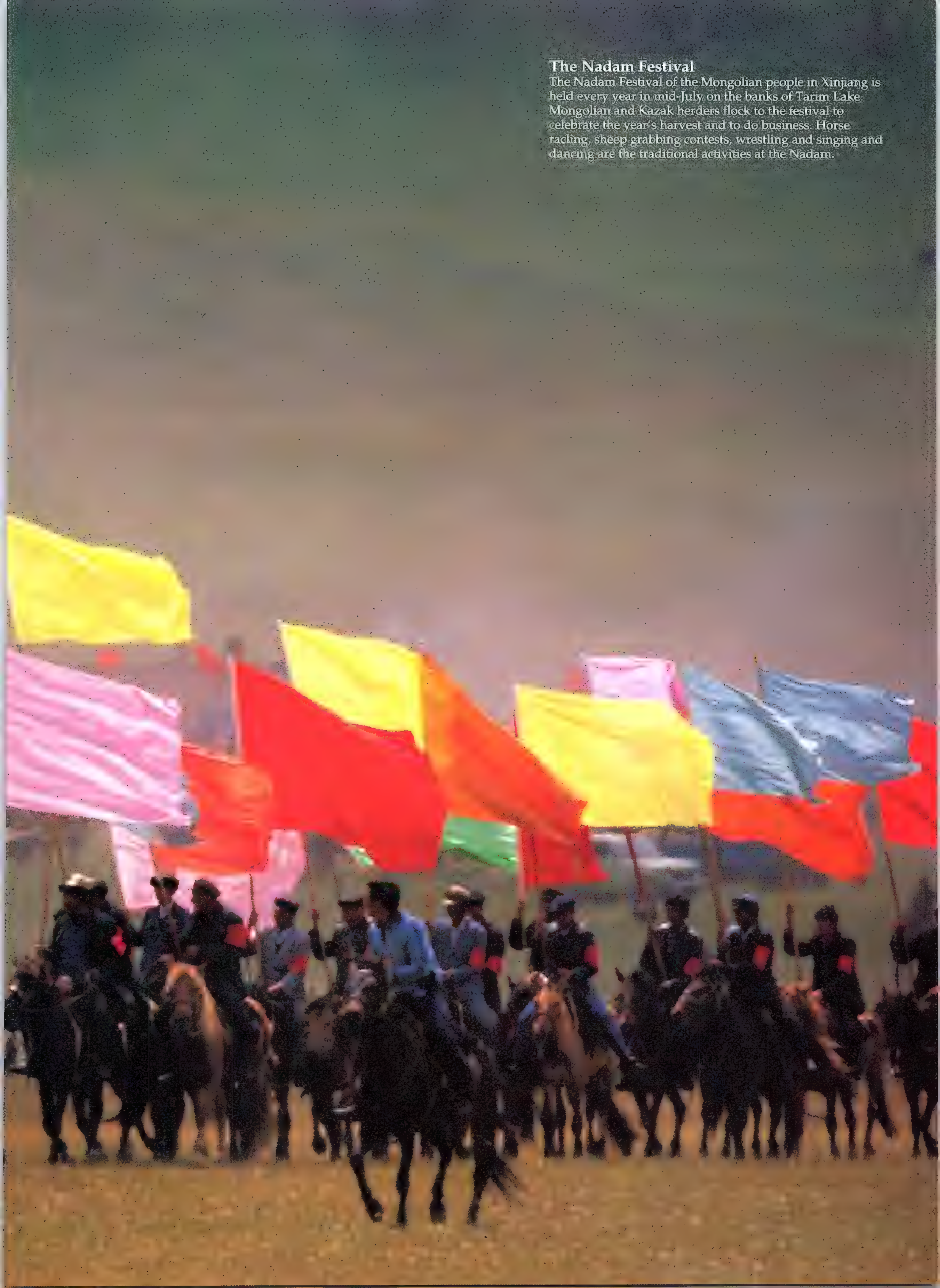
The Flaming Mountain is the hottest area in China. As described in the Chinese classic *Journey to the West,* Monkey had to borrow the large fan from Princess Tieshan (Iron Fan) to put out the flames before he could cross the mountain. This comparatively young volcanic mountain was formed around 180 million years ago by submarine magma during a shift in the earth's crust.

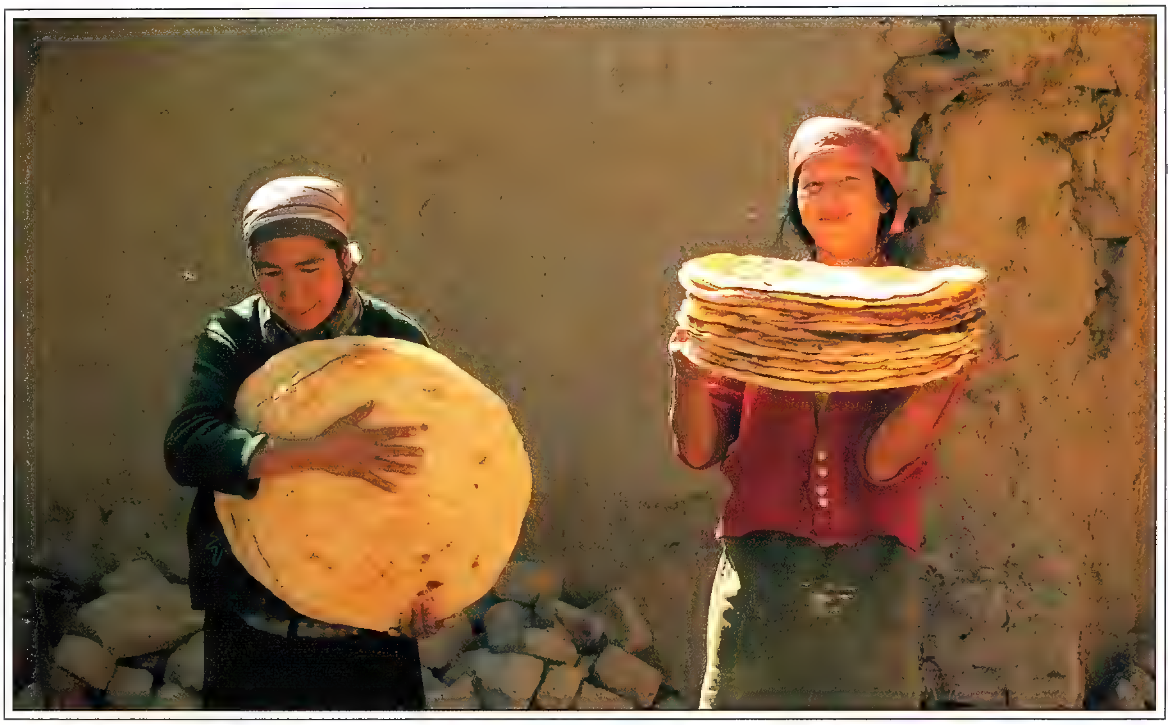
The Tarim River

The longest river in Xinjiang, the Tarim floods the poplar forests along its banks during rainy season. At other times, it vanishes as it flows through Lop Nur and goes underground.

The Nadam Festival

The Nadam Festival of the Mongolian people in Xinjiang is held every year in mid-July on the banks of Tarim Lake. Mongolian and Kazak herders flock to the festival to celebrate the year's harvest and to do business. Horse racing, sheep grabbing contests, wrestling and singing and dancing are the traditional activities at the Nadam.



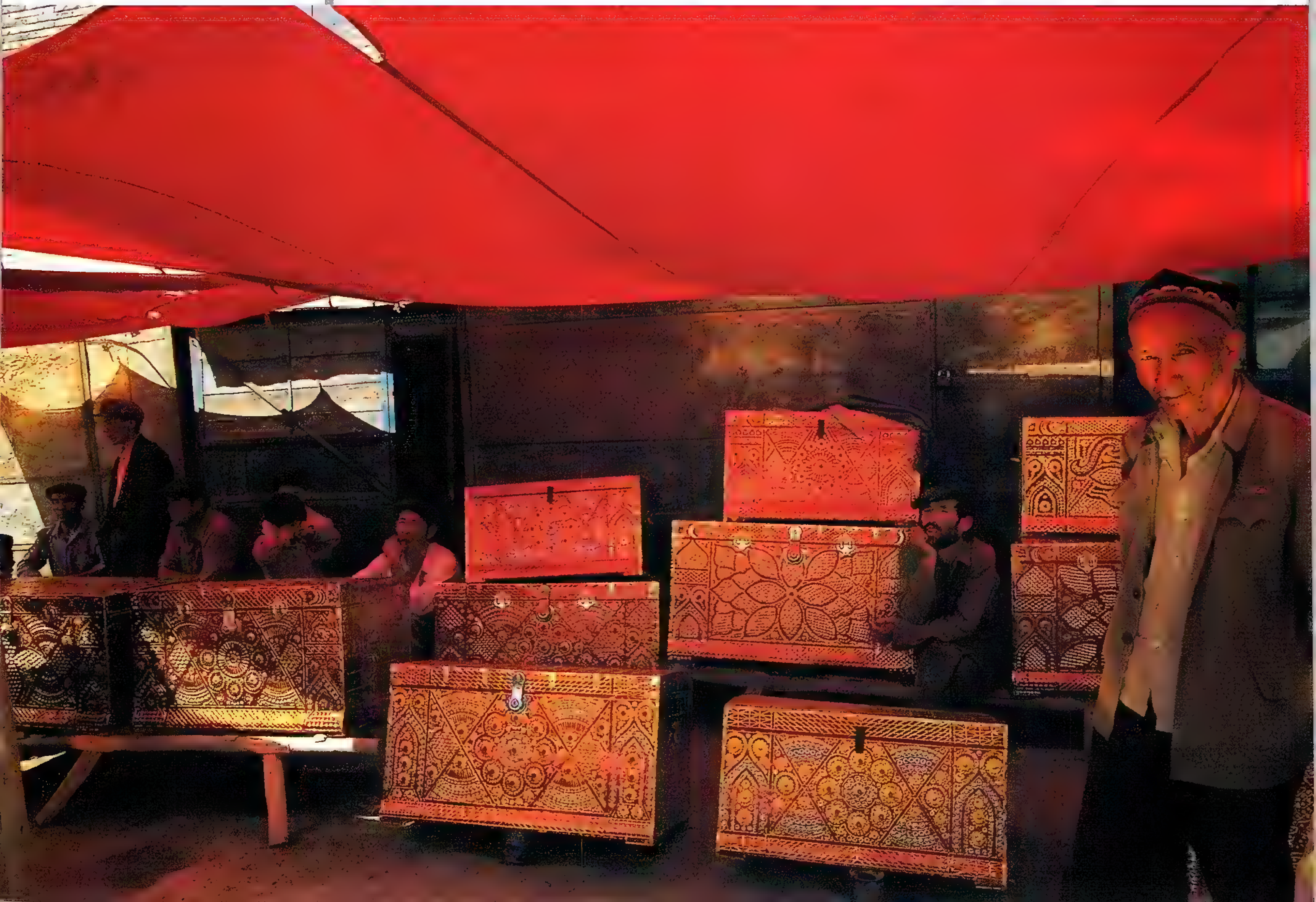


Nang Bread — Staple Food of the Uygur

Made of flour, the crisp and delicious *nang* bread comes in different forms depending on the occasion. The larger ones, called *haike* and *xireman* are prepared for festivals and weddings, while *tuaqi* and *katili*, the smaller ones, are used as travel rations. There are also *gerdan*, which are much thicker, *haiyilaik*, a much thinner one, and the simple *kakqi*, a popular everyday bread.

Iron-Bound Trunks of the Uygur

The gorgeously decorated iron-bound trunks are found in every Uygur home. As well as their practical value, they are an important decorative furnishing.

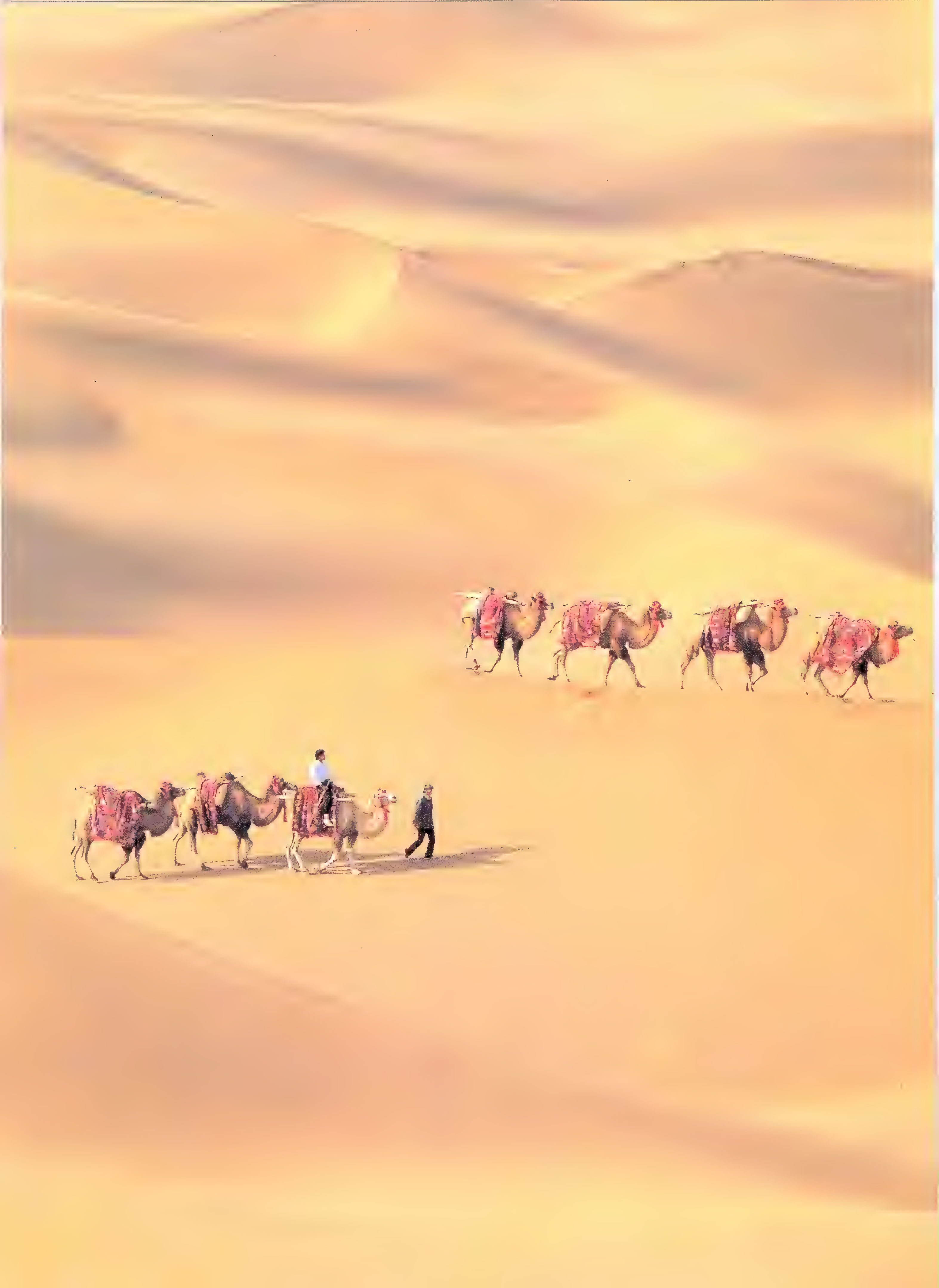


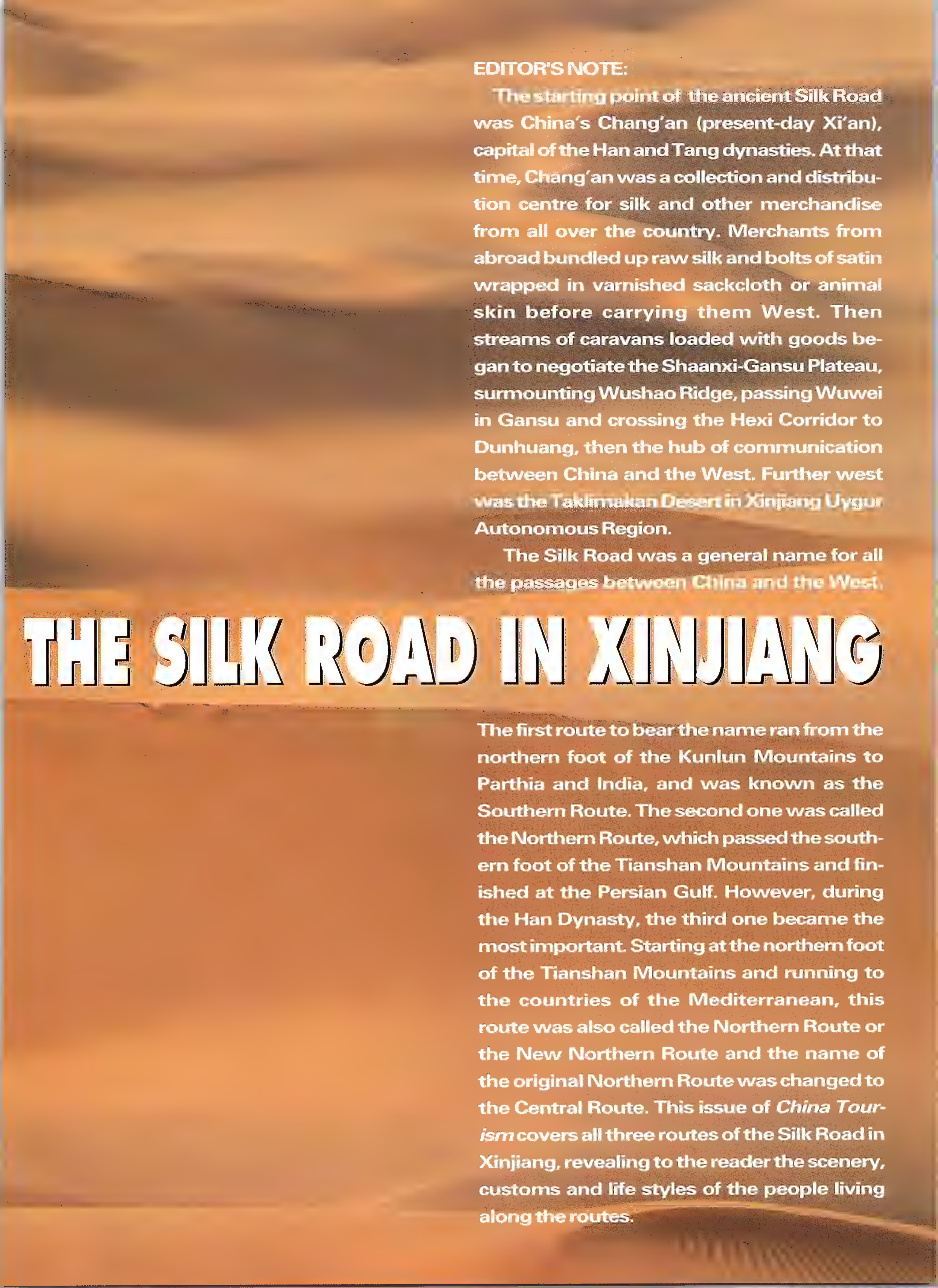
Camels — Ships of the Desert

Xinjiang boasts vast expanses of desert as well as grasslands. Camels, able to endure great hunger and thirst, are excellent on long arduous journeys, and are a traditional means of transport in the region. The Mongolian residents on the shores of Tarim Lake even treat them as companions.

Mutton Kebabs

Mutton is an essential part of the diet of the people of Xinjiang, and Uygur-style kebabs are famed throughout China. The aroma of the food at street stalls is a lure to every passerby.





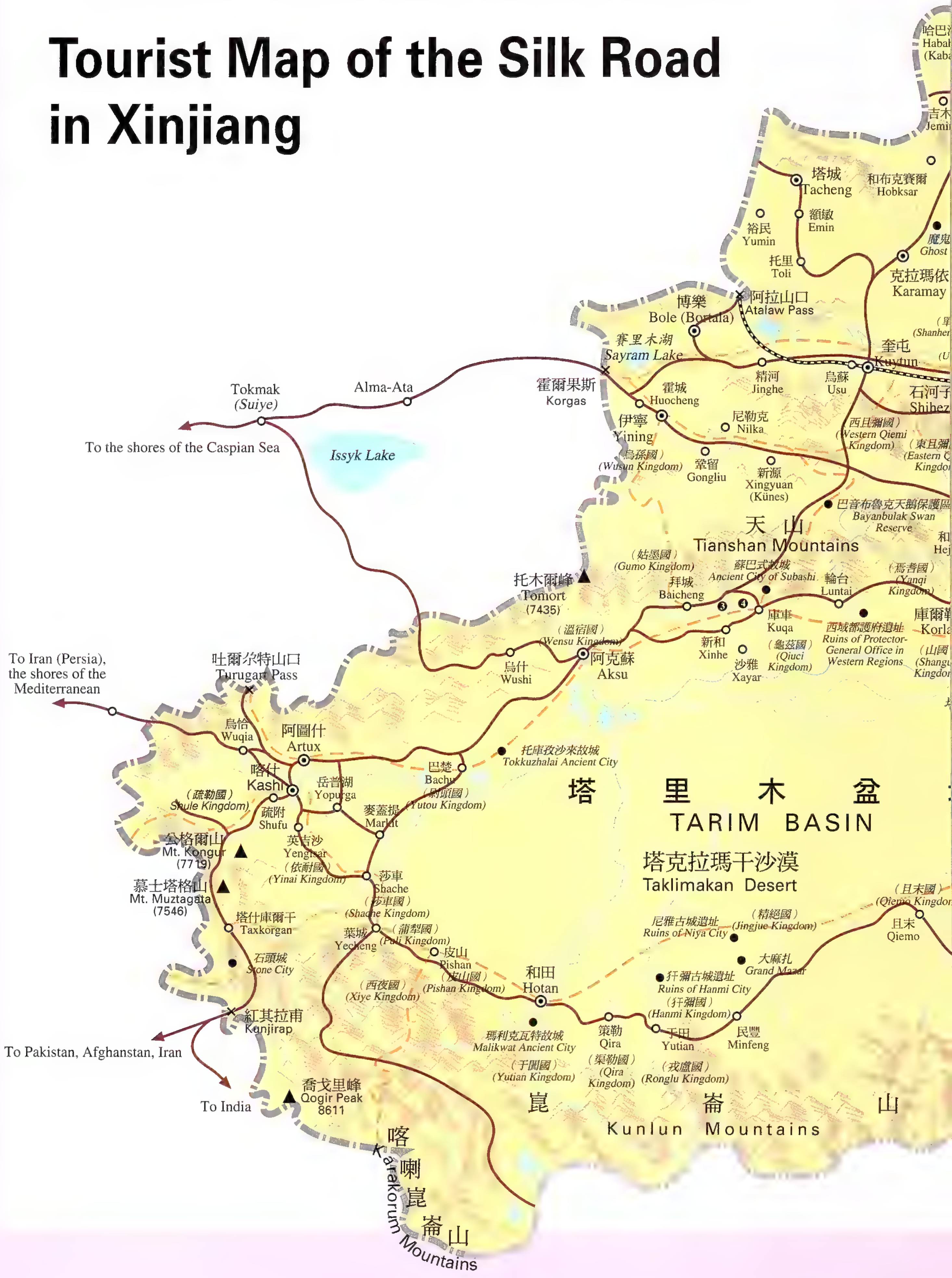
THE SILK ROAD IN XINJIANG

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The starting point of the ancient Silk Road was China's Chang'an (present-day Xi'an), capital of the Han and Tang dynasties. At that time, Chang'an was a collection and distribution centre for silk and other merchandise from all over the country. Merchants from abroad bundled up raw silk and bolts of satin wrapped in varnished sackcloth or animal skin before carrying them West. Then streams of caravans loaded with goods began to negotiate the Shaanxi-Gansu Plateau, surmounting Wushao Ridge, passing Wuwei in Gansu and crossing the Hexi Corridor to Dunhuang, then the hub of communication between China and the West. Further west was the Taklimakan Desert in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

The Silk Road was a general name for all the passages between China and the West. The first route to bear the name ran from the northern foot of the Kunlun Mountains to Parthia and India, and was known as the Southern Route. The second one was called the Northern Route, which passed the southern foot of the Tianshan Mountains and finished at the Persian Gulf. However, during the Han Dynasty, the third one became the most important. Starting at the northern foot of the Tianshan Mountains and running to the countries of the Mediterranean, this route was also called the Northern Route or the New Northern Route and the name of the original Northern Route was changed to the Central Route. This issue of *China Tourism* covers all three routes of the Silk Road in Xinjiang, revealing to the reader the scenery, customs and life styles of the people living along the routes.

Tourist Map of the Silk Road in Xinjiang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Jemi
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Tacheng
和布克賽爾
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額敏
Emin
魔鬼
Ghost
托里
Toli
克拉瑪依
Karamay
博樂
Bole (Bortala)
阿拉山口
Atalaw Pass
賽里木湖
Sayram Lake
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Kuytun
Tokmak
(Suiye)
Alma-Ata
霍爾果斯
Korgas
霍城
Huocheng
精河
Jinghe
烏蘇
Usu
石河子
Shihez
To the shores of the Caspian Sea
Issyk Lake
伊寧
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尼勒克
Nilka
(西且彌國)
(Western Qiemi Kingdom)
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天山
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和
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Turugart Pass
烏什
Wushi
阿克蘇
Aksu
(龜茲國)
(Qiuci Kingdom)
沙雅
Xayar
烏恰
Wuqia
阿圖什
Artux
托庫孜沙來故城
Tokkuzhalai Ancient City
喀什
Kashi
巴楚
Bachu
岳普湖
Yopurga
(尉頭國)
(Yutou Kingdom)
(疏勒國)
(Shule Kingdom)
疏附
Shufu
麥蓋提
Markit
塔里木盆地
TARIM BASIN
公格爾山
Mt. Kongur
(7719)
英吉沙
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(依耐國)
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(Shache Kingdom)
(且末國)
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Yecheng
(蒲犁國)
(Puli Kingdom)
尼雅古城遺址
Ruins of Niya City
(精絕國)
(Jingjue Kingdom)
且末
Qiemo
石頭城
Stone City
皮山
Pishan
(皮山國)
(Pishan Kingdom)
(西夜國)
(Xiye Kingdom)
和田
Hotan
大麻扎
Grand Mazar
扜彌古城遺址
Ruins of Hanmi City
(扜彌國)
(Hanmi Kingdom)
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Kunjirap
To Pakistan, Afghanstan, Iran
瑪利克瓦特故城
Malikwat Ancient City
策勒
Qira
于田
Yutian
民豐
Minfeng
(于闐國)
(Yutian Kingdom)
(渠勒國)
(Qira Kingdom)
(戎盧國)
(Ronglu Kingdom)
喬戈里峰
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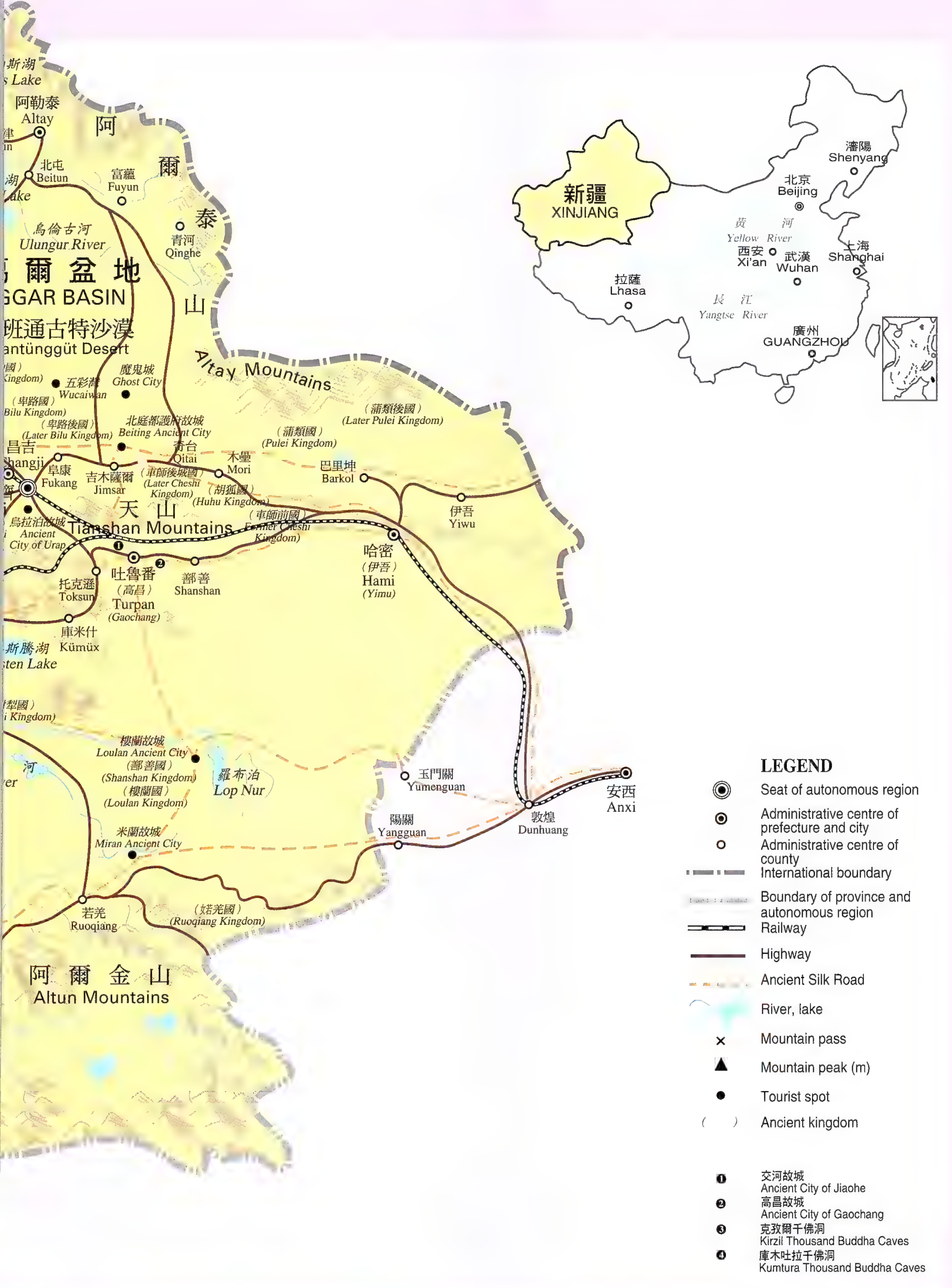
Kunlun Mountains
喀喇崑崙山
Karakorum Mountains



斯湖
s Lake
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Fuyun
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Qinghe
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Ulungur River
爾 盆 地
GGAR BASIN
班通古特沙漠
antünggüt Desert
Altay Mountains
五彩灣
Wucaiwan
魔鬼城
Ghost City
（卑路國）
(Bilu Kingdom)
（卑路後國）
(Later Bilu Kingdom)
北庭都護府故城
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Fukang
吉木薩爾
Jimsar
（車師後城國）
(Later Cheshi Kingdom)
木壘
Mori
（胡狐國）
(Huhu Kingdom)
巴里坤
Barkol
伊吾
Yiwu
天 山
Tianshan Mountains
烏拉泊故城
Ancient City of Urap
（車師前國）
Former Cheshi Kingdom)
哈密
（伊吾）
Hami
(Yimu)
托克遜
Toksun
吐魯番
（高昌）
Turpan
(Gaochang)
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Miran Ancient City
玉門關
Yumenguan
陽關
Yangguan
敦煌
Dunhuang
安西
Anxi
若羌
Ruoqiang
（婼羌國）
(Ruoqiang Kingdom)
阿 爾 金 山
Altun Mountains
新疆
XINJIANG
瀋陽
Shenyang
北京
Beijing
黃 河
Yellow River
西安
Xi'an
武漢
Wuhan
上海
Shanghai
拉薩
Lhasa
長 江
Yangtse River
廣州
GUANGZHOU
LEGEND
Seat of autonomous region
Administrative centre of prefecture and city
Administrative centre of county
International boundary
Boundary of province and autonomous region
Railway
Highway
Ancient Silk Road
River, lake
Mountain pass
Mountain peak (m)
Tourist spot
Ancient kingdom
❶ 交河故城 Ancient City of Jiaohe
❷ 高昌故城 Ancient City of Gaochang
❸ 克孜爾千佛洞 Kirzil Thousand Buddha Caves
❹ 庫木吐拉千佛洞 Kumtura Thousand Buddha Caves

Top: *A grape-grower in Turpan's Grape Valley (by Wu Chunzhan)*
Left: *Hami melons were not originally from Hami (by Wu Chunzhan).*
Bottom: *The ruins of Gaochang City in Turpan, set off by the Flaming Mountain (by Chan Yat Nin)*

'op: Tang-dynasty col-
ured terracotta figurines,
6 cm in height, excavated
'om Hastana-Halahezhou
'emetery at Turpan (by Qi
'iaoshan).

Aiddle: A 10th-century
ıural in Bozaikrik Thou-
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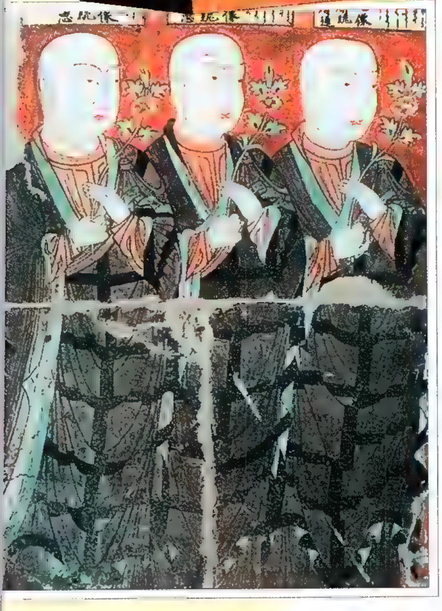
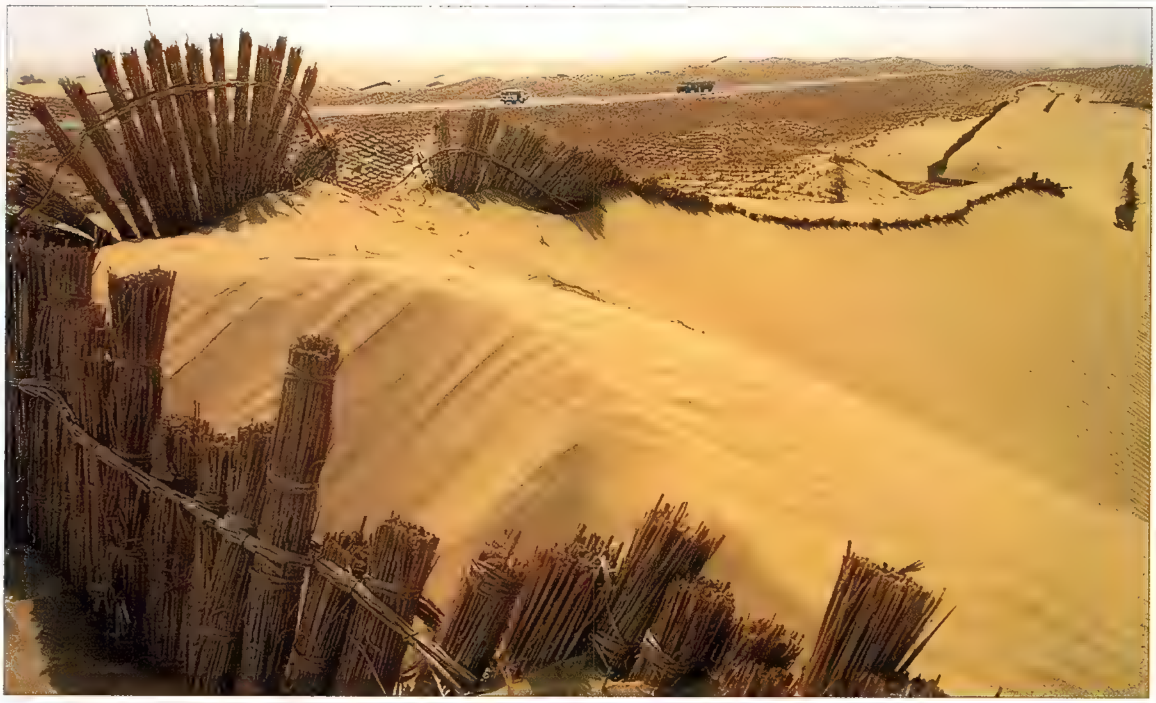


The Road That Brought Buddhism to China

The Central Route of the Silk Road in Xinjiang

ARTICLE BY KANG JIE

The Central Route of the Silk Road that cut through Xinjiang passed different places at different times. In mentioning the road, the *History of the Three Kingdoms* says that it "went westward from Yumenguan ... turned northwest to Longdui ... to the ancient town of Loulan. It then went west to Qiuci ... to Congling". In the volume on Gaochang, the *History of Zhou* says: "The region west of Dunhuang was all desert and it was impossible to tell the exact route of the road, so human and animal bones and horse and camel droppings became the only marks of the road. Furthermore, ghostly animals forced merchants to travel through Yiwu (Hami County)." This is to say that the road through the ancient Kingdom of Loulan was difficult to travel so that at a certain time people, once in Xinjiang after leaving Yumenguan in Gansu, changed the route to go via Hami, then Turpan, Yanqi, Luntai, Kuqa, Aksu, Kashi and Taxkorgan before they left the territory of Xinjiang.



Top left: *Bayingolin Hotel at Korla with a sculpted swan as its symbol (by Chan Yat Nin)*

Top right: *Foreign tourists along the Silk Road (by Chan Yat Nin)*

Middle: *A highway crossing the Taklimakan Desert to the south of Luntai (by Chan Yat Nin)*

Bottom: *Roast fish from Bachu are very tasty (by Liang Feng).*

The first major town on the Silk Road after entering Xinjiang was Hami. The mention of the name always makes one think of the famous Hami melons, but they are not actually grown in Hami. Rather they refer to East Lake melons from Shanshan, and Yangbulak melons from Lükqün, south of the Flaming Mountain.

The Hometown of Hami Melons and Grapes

After Leaving the county town of Shanshan by car, we travelled 25 kilometres before we arrived at Lükqün, the hometown of the famous Hami melons.

Apart from the farmers' wealth of experience in growing sweet melons, another major contribution to the unique quality of the fruit are the particularly ideal climatic and geographical conditions needed for the melons to grow and accumulate their sugar content.

Lükqün was called Liuzhou during the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D.220) and Liucheng during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). To its north is the Flaming Mountain where nothing grows, while to the south are the vast stretches of the Kumtag Desert. These features give rise to the very high temperatures in summer, dry air, scarce rainfall, long hours of sunshine and great variations of temperature during the day and night in the region.

These are the perfect conditions for cultivating Hami melons. The melons were already grown on a fairly large scale during the Yuan (1271-1368) and Ming dynasties. For many years, however, the fruit were not known as Hami melons. It was simply known as the "sweet melon". Then, over 200 years ago, the prince of Hami decided to send the sweet melons from Shanshan, which was also under his jurisdiction, to the Qing (1644-1911) court as a special tribute. Impressed after he had tasted the melon, Emperor Qianlong asked: "Where is this from?" His attendants did not really know where the melons were produced. All they knew was that they were given by the prince of Hami, so they replied: "They are Hami melons." Hence the name to this day.

It is well known that Turpan grapes and Hami melons are two of the specialties of Xinjiang. As we drove further westward from Hami, we soon came to Turpan, home of the seedless grapes.

Grapes can grow easily on any soil, but they do need long hours of sunshine, adequate water and high temperatures. The natural environment at Turpan exactly answers these demands. The greatest producers of grapes are the East Lake Horticulture Farm and the Grape Valley in Shanshan.

In the valley of the Flaming Mountain north of Turpan City, there is a shallow gully with clear waters flowing through from north to south. We looked into the distance from the bottom of the gully and were overwhelmed by the vineyards covering the mountain slopes. The sea of green grape vines was dotted here and there with small cottages where the farmers lived.

Ruins of an Ancient Royal Palace

As we drove eastward from Urümqi, we entered a flat desert. Having travelled for more than 40 kilometres and passed through an oasis from urümqi, we arrived at the ancient city of Gaochang which is relatively well preserved in its basic structural layout. The city wall here can still be seen clearly. We went into the city through the west gate, ascended an elevated place and looked around. What we saw were broken walls and collapsed houses spread out as far as the eye could see. Originally the city had an area of two million square metres and the wall had a circumference of more than five kilometres.

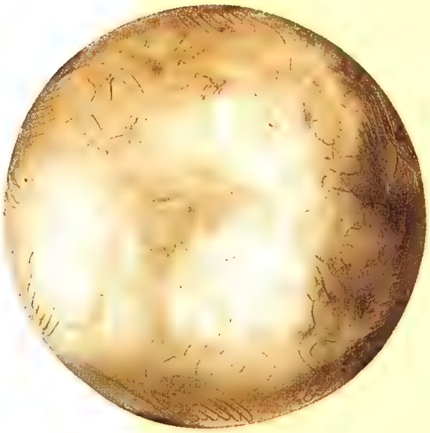
The city was divided into three parts: the outer city, inner city and royal palace. The layout is said to have been similar to that of Chang'an (present-day Xi'an), capital of the Tang Dynasty (618-907). We walked around and found ruins of temples each at both the southeast and southwest corners of the outer city. Slightly to the north of the centre of the town are the remains of a terrace of red adobe some 15 metres high. Scattered nearby are fragments of carved stone foundations and green glazed tiles. Some people believe these are the ruins of the royal palace of the Qu's Gaochang Kingdom.

The Hastana-Halahezhuo Cemetery near the ancient city of Gaochang should certainly not be missed. Since the1950s, more than 100 ancient tombs have been excavated here which have yielded hundreds of dried but intact bodies of the deceased, along with a rich trove of cultural articles dating back to the 3rd to 8th century. Most of the cultural relics apparently have been sent to the Xinjiang Museum in the capital city of Urümqi. Those kept here are in great numbers, and from these it is not difficult to imagine just how large a quantity of finds there must have been.

What interested me most were the silks that have been unearthed. I had no idea until then that the fabrics from the 5th to 8th century could be in such fresh and beautiful colours, with such elegant and charming patterns. These fabrics, including satin, brocade and other various types of silk are the best representatives of cultural relics on the Silk Road. In addition, the coloured terracotta figurines, murals and books written in Han Chinese were also very impressive.

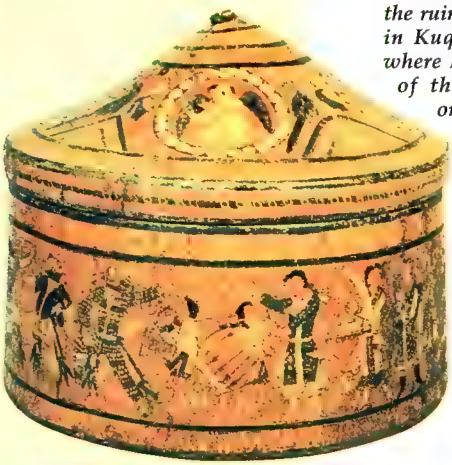
Travelling further west, we came to a place called Agni in *The Travels of Monk Xuan Zang of the Tang Dynasty*. This place with such a Sanskrit name is known in Chinese books as Yanqi. *The History of Early Han Dynasty* records that "The Kingdom of Yanqi ... is abundant with fish from a nearby lake." The lake referred to in this book is Bosten Lake in the southeast of Yanqi County. Bosten in Uygur language means an "oasis lake". With an area of 980 square kilometres, it is the largest lake in Xinjiang.

We followed the Kaidu River which flows eastward from Yanqi towards the lake. In the absence of a



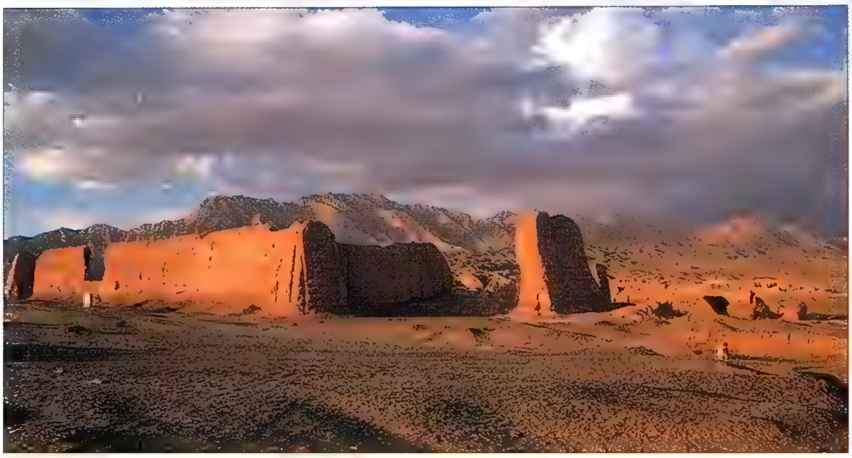
Silver plates engraved with an ostrich pattern unearthed from Yanqi County (by Qi Xiaoshan)

Celestial figures unearthed from Xikeqin Temple at Yanqi (by Qi Xiaoshan)

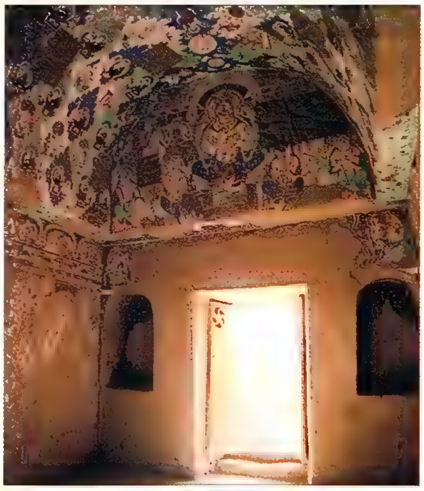


A 7th-century case decorated with Qiuci's music and dance patterns unearthed from the ruins of Subashi City in Kuqa (by Qi Xiaoshan)

The Zhaohuli Temple at the ruins of Subashi City in Kuqa was the place where Monk Xuan Zang of the Tang Dynasty once narrated Buddhist sutras (by Chan Yat Nin).

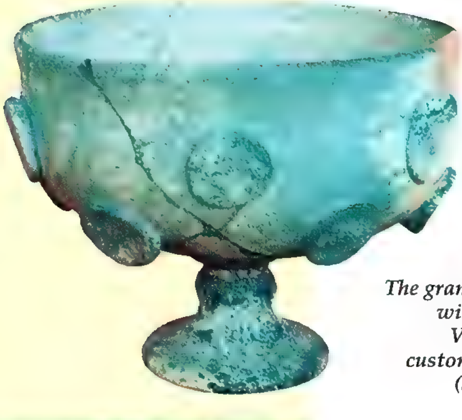


The front part of Cave No. 38 at Kirzil Thousand Buddha Caves (by Chen Zhi'an)



The grand bazaar at Kuqa with a sea of people. Vendors cry out for customers continuously (by Chan Yat Nin).

Tang-dynasty glass goblets 9.7 cm high were found in Kuqa (by Zuo Liang).



highway, the car laboured with tremendous difficulty on the dirt road. At long last, after we had covered a distance of 20 kilometres, we saw the lake in front of us, its water as blue as the sea and as calm as a mirror.

Bosten Lake is home to a huge number of big-headed carp and a kind of carp with pointed mouths. Their large bodies, weighing up to a dozen kilograms, are enjoyed for their tender flesh. In 1966, an aquatic products farm was established at the lake and since then grass carp, black carp, mud carp and silver carp have been cultivated in the lake. Later, bream, crucian and other types of carp from the Yangtse River were also introduced to increase the varieties of fish in the lake.

More Cultural Relics Found at Yanqi

We returned from the lake to the county town of Yanqi for the night. Early next morning, we went south to the town of Sishilichengzi, 20 kilometres away from the county seat proper. Historians believe this was once the capital of the ancient Kingdom of Yanqi.

The square mud wall around the ancient town stands fairly complete and is a good size. Inside the town, however, it is empty, without any old structures remaining, except earth mounds here and there. Archaeologists, I learned, have found copper coins of the Kaiyuan period (713-741) of the Tang Dynasty, proving that the town was already in existence during the eighth century.

The sculpted heads unearthed at Qianjianfang (Thousand Bays of Houses), 20 kilometres southwest of Sishilichengzi, carry with them the unmistakable tradition of Gandharan art. One of them, in the image of a Bodhisattva, was rendered with a high nose, deep-set eyes, long and narrow eyebrows under which the eyes were half shut and a small mouth with thick lips. It resembles people from India or Central Asia. The Thousand Bays of Houses is very much like a Thousand Buddha Cave. Obviously the place once had many temples. What we found were only remnants of earth walls on the flat land, except for some caves on a mountain. We searched carefully and finally found some remnants of coloured murals.

Fruit Production Base on the Edge of the Desert

Korla lies against the Kuruktag Mountains of the Tianshan Mountain chain in the north and faces the expansive Tarim Basin in the south. The Tianshan Mountains serve as a screen to hold in check the cold northerly wind and the virgin forests of poplar trees on both banks of the Tarim River stop the advance of sand from the desert from the south. On this piece of uniquely located land, the weather is warm and most of the time the wind calm and sunshine adequate. The rich water resources further ensure the fertility of the land. Since ancient times, this region has been an ideal farming area in southern Xinjiang.

The history of Korla is fairly short. In 1758, the Qing court established an office in Korla and placed it under the jurisdiction of Yanqi County. In 1929, Korla itself became a county seat, though its population was still only 4,700 even in early 1950s. Today, however, the place is inhabited by more than 100,000 people and serves as the capital of the Bayingolin Mongolian Autonomous Prefecture which occupies one-fourth of the entire territory of Xinjiang.

The layout of the city district in Korla was well planned. In front of the new houses lining the streets are tall poplar trees and a variety of fruit trees, offering a pleasant environment.

This city — an oasis on the edge of the Taklimakan Desert — produces many fruits from early summer to lake autumn. Mulberry and apricots are the first to appear in the market, followed by cherries, plums, peaches, and then water melons, grapes, apples, Hami melons, figs and finally the famous fragrant pears of Korla. Had I not been to Korla, I would have never imagined that there were so many fruits.

The Busy Bazaar

As we travelled westward from Korla, we passed the ruins of the ancient town of Luntai, traversed a land golden with ripening sunflowers and entered the desert. On the way, we came upon ruined beacon towers and block houses. Not to be forgotten were the herds of lazily walking camels.

We entered the city of Kuqa and saw in the old section of the town the Kuqa Mosque in the Central Asian architectural style and its minaret reflecting Western Regions traditions. The new section of town is built next to the old. Here the streets are wide and lined with trees. The buildings are modern in their architectural style. Horse-drawn carts with a capacity of 20 passengers each link the old and new sections.

Kuqa was the capital of the ancient Kingdom of Qiuci, which was famous for its music and dances. Even today, Kuqa holds a Qiuci Festival of Culture and Art from time to time (by Chan Yat Nin).

Kizirgarkar Beacon Tower at Kuqa is the oldest and best preserved along the Central Route (by Chan Yat Nin).

Mosques can be seen everywhere at Kashi (by Wang Miao).

Kuqa was the capital of the ancient Kingdom of Qiuci during the Han Dynasty. At the time, Qiuci was the third largest of more than 50 states in the Western Regions and its territory covered six counties of present-day Luntai, Kuqa, Xayar, Baicheng, Aksu and Xinhe with Kuqa as the centre. Being at the centre of the Western Regions, Qiuci held a strategic place on the Central Route of the Silk Road. It thus was where different cultures came into contact with each other and has always been a place of songs and dances.

You won't really appreciate the charm of the ancient customs and ways of life in Kuqa until you've been to the bazaar there. When we arrived at the old section of the city around noon time, it happened to be the busiest hour of the bazaar and all the streets and lanes were packed with people. Merchandise was arranged according to categories, as stands in some lanes sold nothing but hats of rich local ethnic characteristics. At one large courtyard, our ears were filled with the bleating of animals. It turned out we had come to a livestock market.

The ruins of the ancient town of Subashi, 18 kilometres north of the country town of Kuqa, spread out on both banks of the Kuqa River. There are three Buddhist pagodas on each side of the river and around each there are temples and Buddhist caves. Together the ruins cover an area of some 200,000 square metres, though there are no city walls, ubiquitous to other ancient towns. Monk Xuan Zang did, however, record in his travel records that "There is a river with two temples, both called Zhaohuli Temple, on the two sides opposite each other." The ruins on both sides of the river actually were grounds for the temples.

The Beautiful Murals at the Thousand Buddha Caves

The largest Buddhist grottoes in western China — Kirzil Thousand Buddha Caves — lie some 70 kilometres from Kuqa. One of the four major grottoes in China, it has a longer history than those at Dunhuang.

At the Kirzil grottoes, the 236 caves have suffered massive damage over time, and Buddha statues no longer exist. The murals, however, are relatively well kept, to the benefit of viewers and scholars. From a purely artistic point of view, many of the murals at the Thousand Buddha Caves were beautifully executed. In No. 38 Cave, I found a portrait of a Bodhisattva above the entrance of the cave delineated with thin lines. The upper part of the body was naked, and the simple lines that created the image fully bring it to life.

Kashi — Where Buddhism Was Introduced to China

We went southwestward from Kuqa, passed Aksu and came to the westernmost Chinese city — Kashi.

One of the famous tourist attractions in Kashi is the Tomb of Xiangfei (Fragrant Concubine) 10 kilometres outside the city. The tomb — an ancient Islamic fort built in the 17th century — is very well preserved.

As it happens, she was not buried in this tomb at Kashi. After her death, she was buried in the Eastern Mausoleums of the Qing in Zunhua County, Hebei Province, east of Beijing. Recently, excavations at the mausoleums have yielded handwritten Arabic words in gold on the front and sides of Xiangfei's coffin. Some of the writings are still decipherable: "In the name of Allah...."

About 30 kilometres northeast of Kashi is a long-abandoned ancient city. Across the dried up ancient river bed of the Qakmark a few kilometres further north stands an oblong-shaped earth pagoda and a huge terrace. Over a thousand years old, the Mor Pagodas, as they are called, are masterpieces of Buddhist structure of the ancient Kingdom of Shule.

Kashi was one of the places to first witness the introduction of Buddhism to China. Some people believe there were already Buddhists living in Kashi as early as the second century. There are scholars who take the view that Chen Pan, uncle of An Tu and the King of Shule in the early years of the second century, was a member of the Hinayana Sect of Buddhism. It was after his death that he was posthumously made king. It is generally believed that among the kings of Shule, he was probably the first Buddhist convert.

Buddhism remained the religion of the Kingdom of Kashi for about 900 years after its introduction until it was replaced by Islam in the 10th century.

After Kashi, we went to Taxkorgan, ending our fascinating trip along the Central Route of the Silk Road in Xinjiang.

Translated by Huang Youyi

The 1,000-year pagoda at Kashi was a masterpiece of architecture of the Buddhist followers of Shule Kingdom (by Zhao Cheng'an).

The inside of the Tomb of Xiangfei at Kashi (by Sun Jiabin)

A terracotta figurine of the Tang Dynasty excavated from the ruins of Tumutik at Bachu (by Qi Xiaoshan)

Clockwise from top left: *This old man was born and grew up on the shore of Lop Nur when the marshes around the lake were inhabited by birds and beasts. There was a prolonged drought when he was 35, the lake completely dried up and he was forced to leave his ancestral home and move to Miran (by Wang Miao).* ■ *A very unusual spring flowing out of a sand dune at the foot of the dry Altun Mountains (by Xiao Xiaoyong).* ■ *Ruins of the ancient town of Miran (by Wang Miao)* ■ *The eastern, western and northern shores of Lop Nur are studded with star-like earthen mounds, presenting spectacular scenes. Geographers have named this type of landform the Yadan landform, from the Uygur language. The area featuring Yadan landform totals more than 2,000 square kilometres (by Liu Yusheng).*

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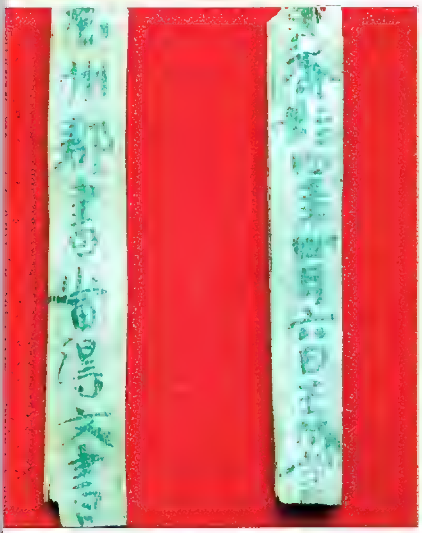
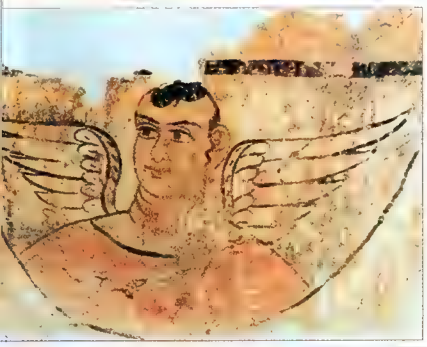




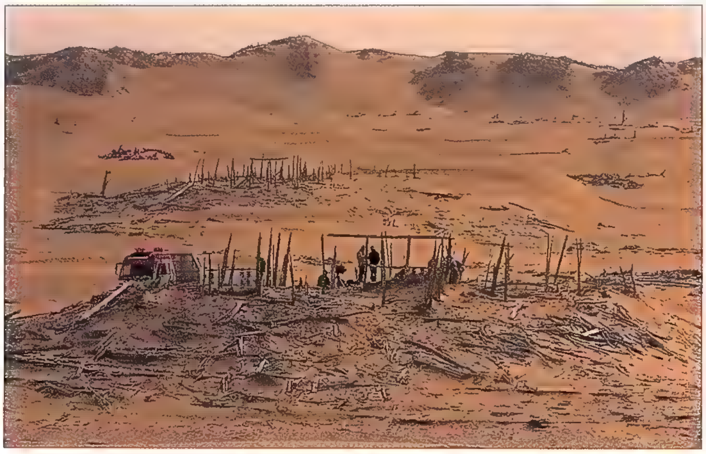
Ancient Towns in the Desert

The Southern Route of the Silk Road in Xinjiang

ARTICLE BY BAO XIU

The Southern Route of the Silk Road through Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region was a vital line of communication between Yangguan Pass and the Western Regions during the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220) and one of the earliest international thoroughfares. More than 2,000 years ago, Westerners travelled in a steady stream to China along this road through the desert, carrying precious stones, ambergris and ivory, while Han diplomatic envoys carrying documents for contracting alliances and caravans of merchants loaded with silk and satin, porcelain and ironware journeyed westward through the boundless sea of sand to the 36 states of the Western Regions.

The fascinating accounts of two famous explorer-travellers — China's Monk Xuan Zang and Italy's Marco Polo — have added a romantic aura to this ancient and now deserted road.



Top left: *Remains of Niya, the capital of the Kingdom of Jingjue (by Liu Yusheng)*

Top right: *In the eyes of the Muslims in southern Xinjiang, Niya Mazar is second in holiness only to Mecca (by Wang Miao).*

Middle: *"Huyang" poplars and sand willows growing in the oases provide the people of Ruoqiang with building material (by Wang Miao).*

Bottom: *Encroached upon by the desert, the Southern Route continually shifted south over the centuries. As a result, ancient towns were abandoned in the depths of the desert (by Wang Miao).*

During the Han and Tang periods, travellers following the Southern Route of the Silk Road in Xinjiang usually started from Yangguan Pass near Dunhuang in today's Gansu Province, and trekked across the 500-kilometre-wide desert near today's Lop Nur to the Kingdom of Loulan and then to Ruoqiang.

Travelling through the desert near Lop Nur, however, was extremely dangerous for travellers. The fact that the Southern Route was abandoned and the Central and Northern routes were opened later was directly related to the peril and threat of death along this section of the Southern Route.

Even today, with modern means of transport and communications, crossing the seemingly endless desert of Lop Nur is still a very difficult undertaking. There are no roads to follow and no road signs. Vehicle wheels often sink in the shifting sand. Travellers can cover only a few dozen kilometres a day at best. As there are no inhabitants, no water, grass or trees along the route, danger lurks everywhere.

Since it is not an easy undertaking to see the site of the ancient Kingdom of Loulan in the desert of Lop Nur today, tourists usually depart from Dunhuang and travel south into Qinghai Province then westward across the Altun Mountains to Ruoqiang.

The Ancient City of Yixun

Near the county town of Ruoqiang are oases and long winding rivers fed by melted snow from the nearby Altun Mountains in the summer.

During the heyday of the Southern Route of the Silk Road, the area around today's Ruoqiang was part of the territory of the Kingdom of Shanshan. Seventy kilometres to the northeast of the county town was the site of an ancient city with the remains of city walls, beacon towers, temples and dwelling houses. Not far from the site were the remains of an irrigation network covering more than 1,300 hectares of land. Many people believe these were the remains of the city of Yixun near Miran that flourished during the Western Han Dynasty. To strengthen the rule of the king of Shanshan and ensure unimpeded traffic along the Southern Route, the Han empire set up a military and farming base at Yixun, where the soldiers were engaged in farming when they were not performing military duties.

By coincidence, more than 2,000 years later, Miran, about 10 kilometres north of Yixun, has become the base of the 36th Regiment of today's farming and land-reclamation corps.

The highway going from Miran traverses an area almost entirely of desert. Although maintenance crews work all year round to fight and fix the sand, the road surface is often buried by shifting sand during windy seasons.

About 370 kilometres to the east of Miran is Qiemo, a county town on the Qarqan River. During the Western Han Dynasty, Qiemo was a small kingdom like Loulan close to it and Ruoqiang in the desert near Yangguan Pass, far from the present-day Ruoqiang. According to the *History of the Han Dynasty*, the Kingdom of Qiemo had only 230 households and a population of 1,610 while the Kingdom of Ruoqiang had 450 households and a population of 1,750, who did not engage in farming and relied on Shanshan for the supply of food grain. The Kingdom of Xiaoyuan on the southern bank of the Qarqan River was even smaller: It had only 150 households. The broken town walls of the ancient Qiemo now stand in the wilderness to the southeast of the present-day county town.

It is said that when Monk Xuan Zang was on his way back from India with Buddhist scriptures, he stayed at the ancient Qiemo, which was already a deserted town.

There was a continuous chain of oases along the 300 kilometres between Qiemo and Minfeng, crisscrossed by streams flowing down from the Kunlun Mountains. On either side of the highway were groves of "Huyang" poplars *(Populus diversifolia)* and reeds rustling in the wind. Flocks of sheep herded by Uygur shepherds grazed leisurely on the meadows in the woods. This green "corridor" between Qiemo and Minfeng is a refreshing sight for travellers in the desert.

Niya, Capital of the Kingdom of Jingjue

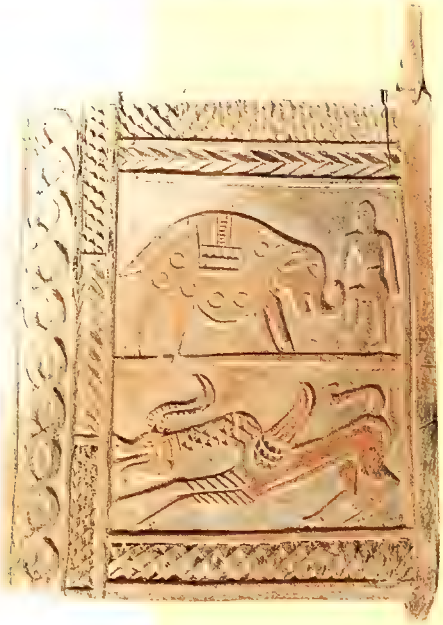
Tourists coming to Minfeng usually choose two places to visit. One is the Niya Mazar, or holy mausoleum, where the Muslims in southern Xinjiang hold a grand memorial ceremony every year, and the other is the site of the ancient town of Niya, capital of the Kingdom of Jingjue.

In August every year, thousands of Muslims from all over Xinjiang come to pay homage to the mazar. They trek piously along the Niya River valley into the depths of the Taklimakan Desert, where Jibisadak, the fifth-generation grandson of the Prophet Mohammed, who was killed in the mediaeval Islamic Holy War, was buried.

About 10 kilometres further into the desert from Niya Mazar is the site of the famous town of Niya. Many contemporary scholars believe the town was the capital of the Kingdom of Jingjue as recorded in the *History of the Han Dynasty*.

At the site of the ancient town are the ruins of many temples, dwelling houses, gardens and bridges. Fabrics and letters written on slips of wood, about 2,000 years old, have been unearthed at the site. The most attractive finds are ancient silk and satin, still brilliant in colour, found in a Han tomb, where a husband and wife were buried together. These archaeological finds silently reflect the glory of the Southern Route of the Silk Road in its heyday.

A pagoda in the ancient town of Niya (by Ahe Maimaiti)



A cabinet door leaf unearthed from the ruins of the town of Niya. It is decorated with an elephant of the Western Regions and a dragon from China proper (by Qi Xiaoshan).

Aidis silk is a product unique to the ancient Silk Road (by Wang Miao).

Families in Hotan still like to plant grapevines, trees and flowers in their yards as mentioned in the Travels of Marco Polo *more than 700 years ago (by Wang Miao).* ▶

For centuries people believed that the Taklimakan Desert was a desolate wilderness of death and terror. It has been discovered that the Keriya people, with a population of over 700, live miraculously in the heart of the "Sea of Death". They are a branch of the Uygur people but have their own dialect and customs. (by Liang Feng). ▼

Only the tall poplar can survive in the boundless desert (by Wu Zhanchun).

Further west from Minfeng is the site of the Kingdom of Ronglu in the desert to the south of Yutian county seat and the sites of the kingdoms of Qule and Yumi to the south and northeast of Qira county seat. The existence of these states shows that the Southern Route of the Silk Road was opened mainly for the purpose of establishing contact between the Central Plains and these states in the Western Regions.

Aidis Silk from Eggs Brought by a Han Princess

To the north of the county town of Yutian is a great lifeless desert and to its south are the snow-capped Kunlun Mountains, but the Keriya River and the network of irrigation canals to the east and west of the county town have turned the area into an oasis in the desert. The local Uygur women like to wear a small hat made with black cloth in the shape and size of a tea cup. Since the hat is sewn on a scarf, it always stays on.

People visiting Yutian for the first time often think that it is the site of the ancient Kingdom of Yutan. They are wrong. The ancient Kingdom of Yutan, famous during the Han and Tang periods, is located more than 200 kilometres away. Archaeologists believe the remains of the town named Mailik Avati located in the southwest of the county town of Hotan and on the western bank of the Yurungkax River was the capital of the Kingdom of Yutan that flourished during the Han Dynasty.

Hotan jade and rugs are known throughout the world, but few people know the Aidis silk of Hotan. Visitors to southern Xinjiang invariably notice the gorgeous and graceful skirts worn by Uygur girls. The skirts are made with the Aidis silk, another product unique to the ancient Silk Road.

Silkworm rearing and silk weaving skills were believed to have been introduced to the kingdoms of Gaochang, Yutan and Yanqi as early as the Eastern Han Dynasty. Later, silk fabrics appeared woven in a style particular to the Western Regions. It is said that the first silkworm eggs were brought by a Han princess from her hometown. She has been portrayed in some Tang-dynasty woodcut prints unearthed in Hotan. In these prints the princess plants mulberry trees, rears silkworms and weaves silk fabrics, together with Uygur women.

A cup made in the shape of a human and ox skull uncovered from the ruins of the ancient town of Yotkan in Hotan (by Qi Xiaoshan)

The Solitary Stone City on the Pamirs

Travelling westward from the fertile and beautiful Hotan, one passes through a number of sites of ancient states in the Western Regions, including Pishan (today's Pishan county), Xiye (southwest of today's Pishan), Puli (east of today's Yecheng) and Shache (today's Shache County). History books say that the Southern Route of the Silk Road branched into two routes in the Shache area. One went north to the Kingdom of Shule (today's Kashi City) to join the Central Route, then turned southwest, climbed over Congling (the Pamirs) and passed Stone City to reach Dayuezhi and Anxi (Persia). The other extended directly westward from the Kingdom of Shache along the Yarkant River Valley, crossed Congling, passed Stone City, then went south into Anxi and then Daqin (the Roman Empire).

Since both the southern and central routes had to pass Stone City, the city took on great strategic importance. The city is said to have existed even during the period of the Southern and Northern Dynasties (420-589). Today, the gate towers, corner towers and parapets of the 1,400-year-old city's wall are largely intact. A plausible reason for building a large, solitary city on the snow-covered, barren and uninhabited plateau more than 4,000 metres above sea level was that it provided a comfortable rest place for the caravans of merchants and diplomatic envoys to relieve the fatigue, terror and hunger of the road.

A bronze statue of the Tang Dynasty unearthed from Dama Gully in Qira County (by Qi Xiaoshan)

Congling Today

A smooth and wide international highway now links Kashi with the border town of Kunjirap. Starting from Kashi in the morning and travelling a distance of over 400 kilometres, one can reach Kunjirap in the evening, after climbing the snow-covered Kunjirap mountain pass which is more than 4,800 metres above sea level. In Han and Tang times, it took more than 10 days for merchants, monks and envoys to travel the same distance across Congling and they had to face danger and possible death from avalanches, sandstorms and the lack of oxygen. Travelling in a bus today, one can enjoy the sight of the mirror-like lakes on the plateau and feast one's eyes on the beautiful snow and ice of Mount Kongur and Mount Muztagata and the herds of cattle and sheep on the grassland.

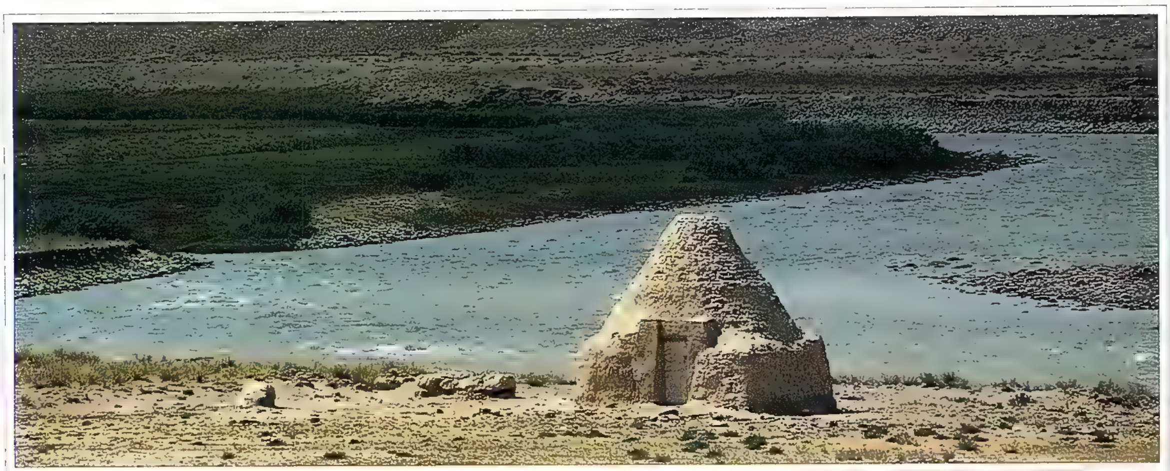
This section of "the roof of the world" is inhabited by the Tajiks. Although there are only 26,000 of them, they are very striking. Their facial features are distinguished by sunken eyes, a high nose and narrow face. The Tajiks call themselves "the descendants of the eagle", because only eagles and Tajiks can live in total freedom on Congling.

About 20 kilometres from the Kunjirap mountain pass is the border between China and Pakistan. This is an area of barren mountains without a single tree in sight. Yellowish-green grass clings closely to the ground. A tall border marker stands at 3,900 metres above sea level. On the other side of the border are Pakistani soldiers.

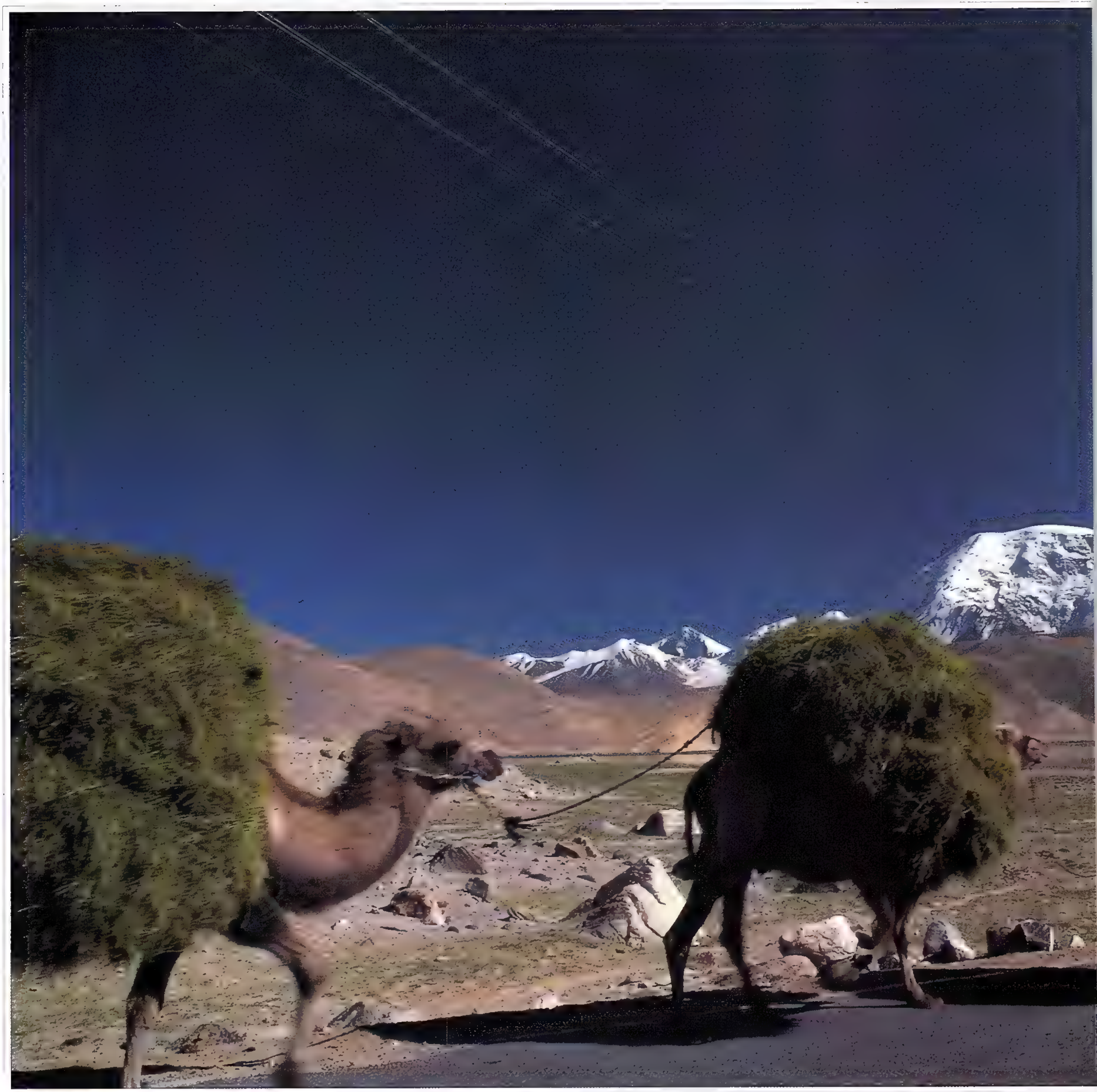
Steady streams of trucks loaded with goods and international buses carrying passengers head respectively east and west.

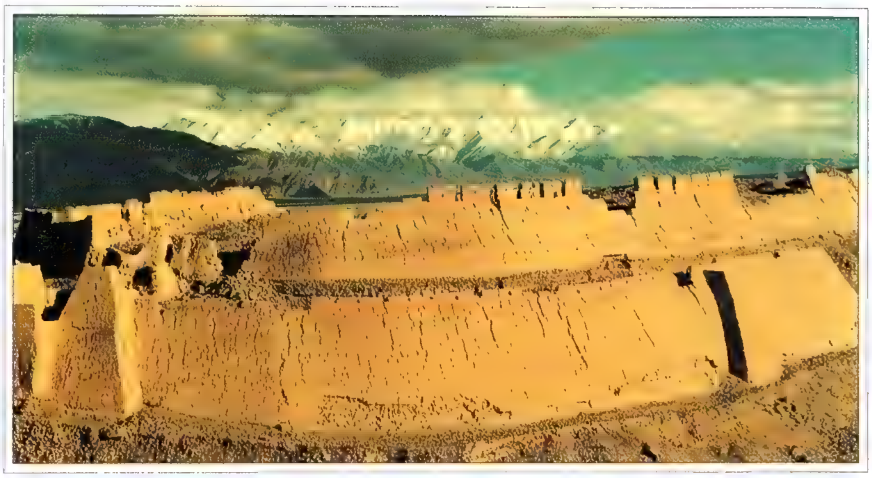
When China's Monk Xuan Zang and Italy's Marco Polo followed the same route hundreds of years ago, there were no clearly defined roads and no border markers, but only bone-piercing snowstorms, hungry wolves and black eagles circling in the deep valley. Travellers should be grateful for the progress.

Translated by Tang Bowen

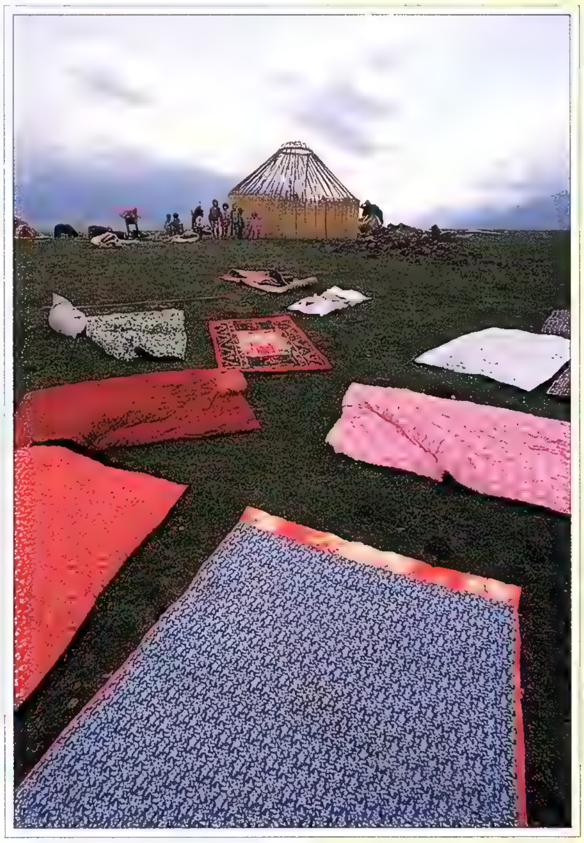


This mud and brick house with a round and pointed roof was a post on the ancient road in the Han and Tang dynasties. The local Taijik people call it Gongbez (by Wang Miao).

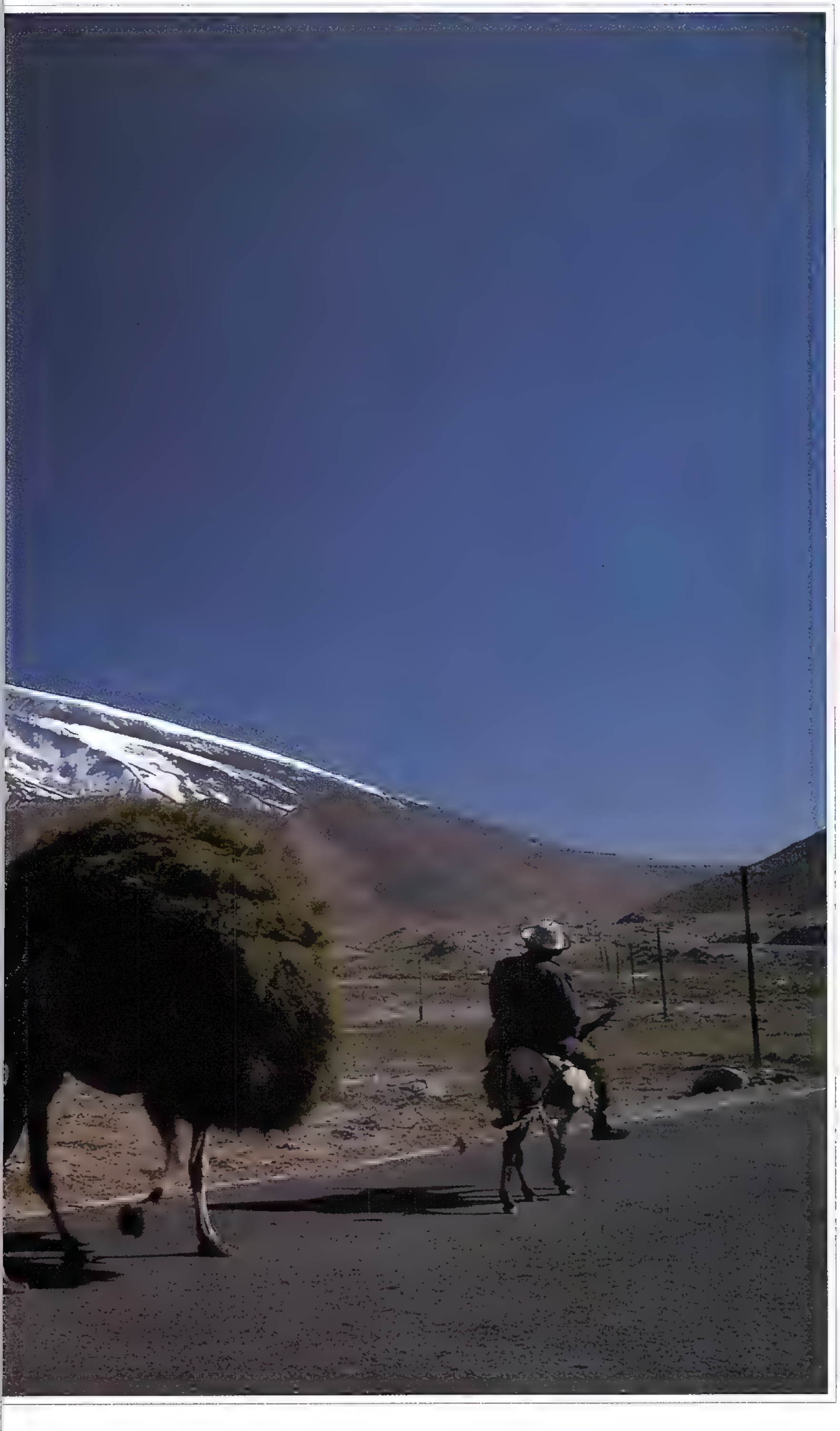




Stone City, near the county town of Taxkorgan, was a strategic fortress passed by every traveller along the Southern Route of the Silk Road (by Wang Miao).



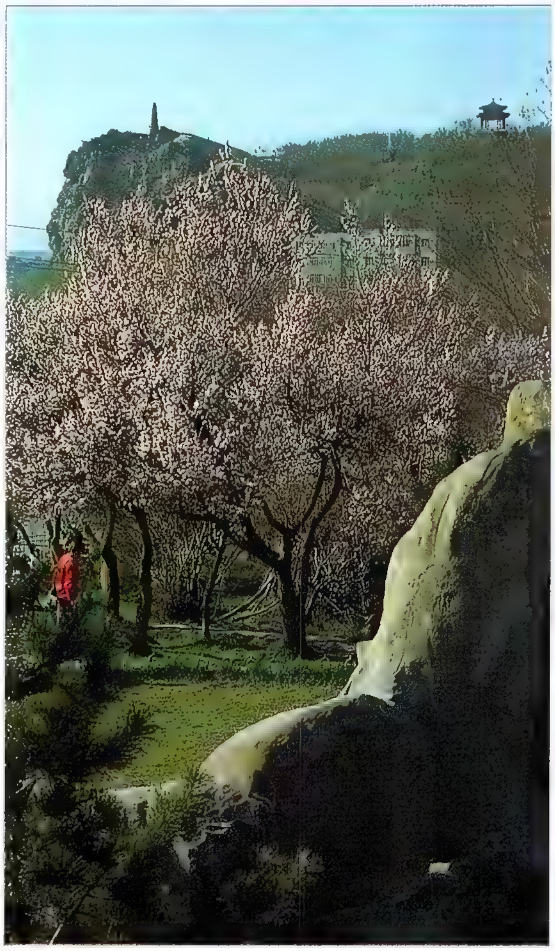
These nomadic Tajik people have just moved to a new pasture (by Zhao Cheng'an).

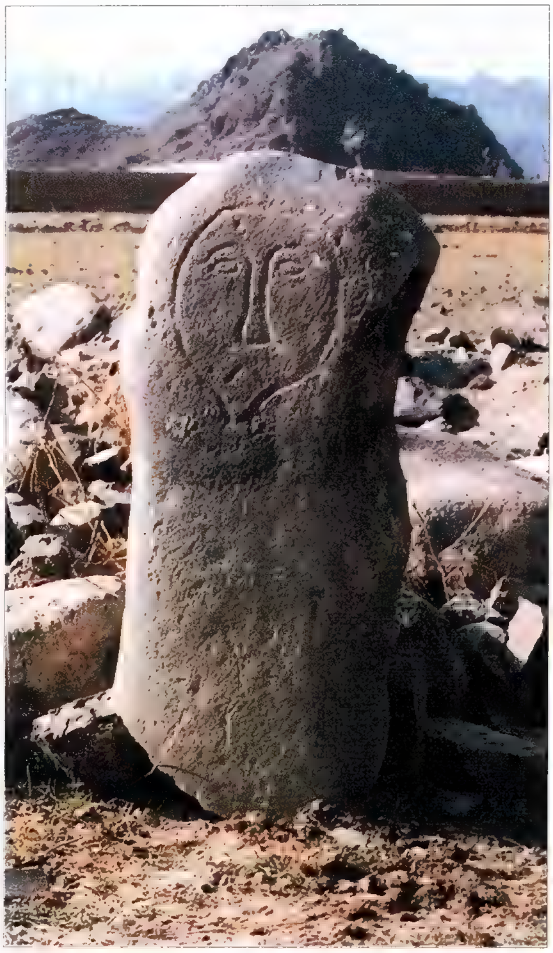


The highway climbing the Pamirs winds its way forwards at the foot of Mount Muztagata (by Wang Miao).

Top left: *Hongshan in Urümqi is a tourist place newly opened up on the Northern Route (by Song Shijing).*

Top right: *A Tang-dynasty stone figure lying in the Kotogole Desert is probably a route sign of the ancient Silk Road (by Liu Guorui).*





The lush green fertile Tianshan Pasture is a paradise for herdsmen (by Song Shijing).

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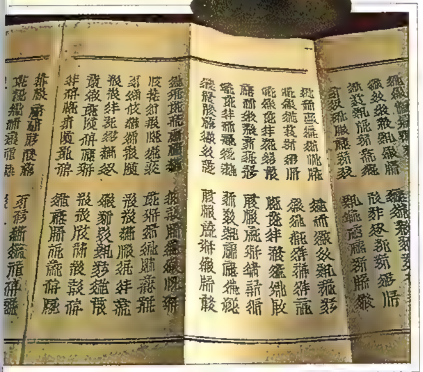


The lion-shaped gold ornament unearthed in Ala Valley in Urümqi is from the fifth century B.C. (by Feng Fei).

The Road on the Endless Grassland

The Northern Route of the Silk Road in Xinjiang

ARTICLE BY SHU FENG

After leaving the Hexi Corridor, you travel northward and reach Yiwu, from where you can either go along the southern side of the Tianshan Mountains to Qijiaojing and then turn northward to cross the Tianshan Mountains to Mori, or go through Songshutangdaban to Puleize (present-day Barkol Grassland) and travel westward along the northern side of the Tianshan Mountains to Mori. Then go through Jimsar and Urumqi and turn westward to pass through the Ili River Valley. This route running through northern Xinjiang appeared in an embryonic form in the Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 24) and was formally opened up in the Sui and Tang Dynasties (581-907) as the Northern Route of the Silk Road, or the New Northern Route. As it runs through the Tianshan Mountains, it has plenty of water and grass, beautiful scenery and many extraordinary tourist attractions, and as a newly-built highway runs from east to west, transport is very convenient. It has become a must for all visitors to Xinjiang.

留影

Facing page top: *The uniquely-styled mosque in Urümqi (by Song Shijing)*

Ethnic girls living along the Silk Road are skilful artists. The caps they make are very beautiful (by Liang Feng).

I boarded a bus in Hami (the seat of Yiwu County in ancient times) and went north ward. On the way I saw a stone sculpture standing alone in the desert. It was about one metre, and surrounded by a messy pile of stones. The place was said to be the site of an important post on the ancient Silk Road.

After crossing Songshutangdaban, a part of the Tianshan Mountains 2,800 metres above sea level, I reached the Barkol Grassland. As I gazed into the distance from the top of the mountain, I saw the vast grassland stretching towards the east, yurts dotted here and there like stars scattered on the ground, herds of cattle and sheep grazing freely, and Barkol Lake lying there like a mirror. Around the grassland and the lake were skyscraping, snow-capped mountain ranges and dense forests of pine trees. Mists were rising from the lake like fluttering white gauze in the noon sunshine. This grassland, a battlefield 1,000 years ago, is the place with the largest number of camels in Xinjiang, and the Barkol horse raised here is one of Xinjiang's three best breeds.

The Site of Beiting City

As I continued my way westward along the northern side of the Tianshan Mountains, I soon reached Jimsar, an important city on the Silk Road. Close to the county seat is the site of an ancient Buddhist temple. A few grottoes still exist there today. On the walls of the grottoes are carved some niches with several seated Buddhas in them, and on the ceilings are portraits of Sakyamuni and stories about Buddhism.

I got on a bus and went to visit the site of the ancient Beiting City, 10 kilometres north of the county seat. Beiting was built in the Han Dynasty and was then called Jinman City. It became very prosperous in the Tang Dynasty, and a government was established here to control military and political affairs within the northern side of the Tianshan Mountains, from Yiwu in the east to Suiye in the west. Beiting was one of the three major silk capitals in the ancient Western Regions. But today, over 1,000 years later, it has turned to ruins. It is said that the city was destroyed in wars during the Ming Dynasty. When I climbed the dozen-metre-high city wall, the layout of the grand ancient city appeared clearly before my eyes. The city walls were constructed in accordance with the physical features of the place and divided the city into two parts: the inner city and the outer city. The outer city walls, about five kilometres long, clearly show that the city was very solid in ancient times.

The site of the ancient Beiting city wall viewed from a distance. Its original magnificence still remains (by Zhao Cheng'an).

When I entered the city, I found the old official residences and streets were still discernible. Broken bricks and tiles and various pottery pieces lay everywhere. I studied a few large pits left by robbers of cultural relics. It was said that in recent years the Chinese cultural relics departments had unearthed from here many valuable relics including a Tang-dynasty bronze official seal, a bronze lion and a bronze mirror with a pattern of grapes.

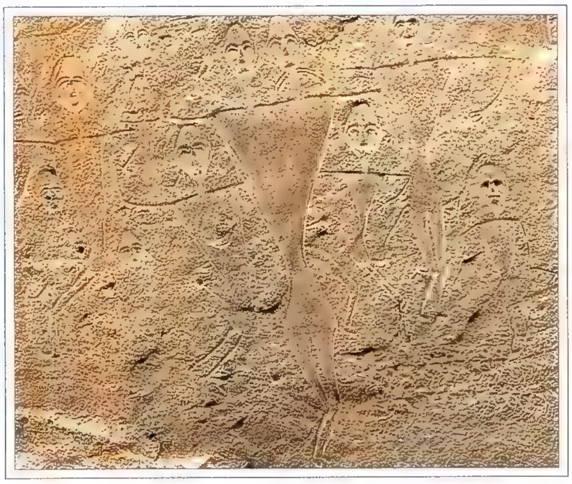
About one kilometre away from the site of the ancient city there is a 15-metre-high earth mound, which looks like a huge pagoda when viewed from the distance. It is the site of the "Good Fortune and Great Peace" Buddhist Temple built in 640 at the order of Emperor Taizong of the Tang Dynasty. Many cultural relics like mural paintings and clay warriors from the temple have been found.

Urümqi, a City with Many Traces of the Ancient Silk Road

As I kept travelling westward, I reached the ancient city of Urümqi, a vital part of the Northern Route of the Silk Road, and now the capital of the Xingjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. In Urümqi there are many historical sites of the Silk Road, with the most famous ones being the Ulabo Ancient City, Alagou Site, and the Site of Gongning City. From these places a large number of cultural relics have been found including various pottery jars, jadeware, bronzes and incomplete pieces of ancient silk. All these finds are now preserved in the museum of the autonomous region.

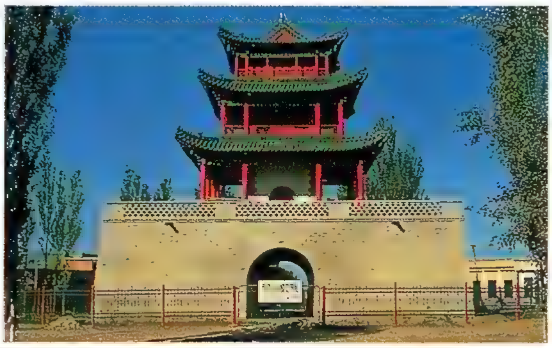
I went to visit the museum located on the Northwest Road in the city. It is a huge square building with a round roof constructed in the Islamic architectural style. It is

Facing page bottom: *Sayram Lake has become a famous tourist place. This is a photo studio set up by a family to perform services for tourists (by Chan Yat Nin).*



Right: *Hutubi rock pictures depicting human sexual intercourse (by Song Shijing)*

The beautiful Guozi (Fruit) Gully teems with honey. Tourists see many beekeepers selling honey on the road (by Chan Yat Nin).



Top: *The ethnic people in Ili, a major city on the Silk Road, play music and sing songs during their spare time (by Liang Feng).*
Above: *The newly-repaired Huiyuan ancient city wall in Ili*

The tomb of a king or a high official of ancient Wusun Kingdom

very quiet inside. Open year-round, the museum has such exhibitions as "Xinjiang's Cultural Relics" and "Ancient Corpses from Xinjiang".

The exhibits in the museum are very rich. It is said that some of the exhibits like silk fabrics, silk paintings, painted figurines and inscribed wooden slips are rare treasures. The ancient corpses are also very eye-catching. Some of them are male and others are female; their dry, shrunken skins are dark grey. One ancient corpse is said to be Zhang Xiong, who was a general of the Kingdom of Gaochang in the Tang Dynasty.

Primitive Rock Paintings in Hutubi

I got on a bus in Urümqi and went northwest. Along the way I saw vast pastures one after the other at the foot of the Tianshan Mountains. Above the pastures were luxuriantly green forests of pine trees with clouds drifting above. Herds of big horses and white sheep were roaming about on the lush green pastures. When I reached Xigou Village in Hutubi County, I saw a strange mountain peak looming in the distance. The 3,000-year-old Tianshan rock paintings were over there on the cliffs of the peak.

The 40-cm high bronze warrior of the early Warring States Period unearthed from Xinyuan County (by Qi Xiaoshan)

The rock paintings cover an area of about 150 square metres on the cliffs over 10 metres above the ground. Several hundred naked human figures are carved in primitive, bold lines. In the middle of the upper part of the rock paintings is a robust man about two metres tall. Most interestingly, he is painted with an erect penis more than two feet long. On either side of him is a row of naked women each with a bridged nose, a small mouth, two big eyes, a broad chest and a small waist. In the middle part of the rock paintings are several hundred naked men at a height ranging from two metres to one foot. Some of the men and women are painted having sexual intercourse. Several pregnant women are drawn with a baby's head on their protruding bellies. On the lower part of the rock paintings are several hundred small figures dancing together hand in hand. It is said that the place was a sacrificial altar of a patriarchal clan and the rock paitings were a totem. These rock paintings show primitive people's worship of male reproductive organs as well as their hope for a flourishing population.

The Terrifying, Stimulating Ghost City

After passing the southwestern edge of the Junggar Basin, I came to a desert, the only section of the Northern Route in the desert. On this section of road lies a famous place of interest — the Ghost City. With a circumference of 30 kilometres, the Ghost City has a peculiar gate with stone columns in the shape of human figures standing like sentries by its side. Inside the city, ravines, grotesque rocks and earthern mounds of different sizes are everywhere. Of the various earthern mounds, some look like huge pagodas, some like towers and pavilions, and others like birds and beasts. It is said they were formed by wind erosion over millions of years. The night I was there, a force nine gale arose, which turned the Ghost City into hell: dogs' hoarse barking, terrified horses' neighing, thunderous sounds were heard from time to time. Sometimes they seemed to be tigers' and lions' roaring or wolves' howling, and a few minutes later it seemed there had appeared a country fair where motor vehicles were hooting, pedlars were hawking their wares, and people were shouting and crying in a fight. But most horrifying was the crying of women; now like wild laughter, now like sad and mournful weeping. These voices drifted to me, making my flesh creep. It was both terrifying and exciting.

The tiger-head bracelet found on the Silk Road

The next day our bus turned onto an asphalt road and continued to run westward along the northern side of the Tianshan Mountains, and a short while later brought us to Sayram Lake, where fascinating views came into sight one after the other: The snow-capped peaks of the Tianshan Mountains were reflected in the water; wild ducks and other aquatic birds were drifting with the currents, and various kinds of fish such as carp, silver carp, crucian carp and variegated carp were swimming peacefully in the lake.

After our bus passed Sayram Lake and ran southward for a while, we entered the Fruit Valley known as "The Unique Fairyland". It is a 70- kilometre-long valley with a road winding through it. It is said that the road in the valley was opened by Genghis Khan's troops in the Yuan Dynasty. In recent years it has been widened and asphalted. Our bus ran now on top of the hills, now at the bottom of the valley. On the south side of the valley were lush green grasses dotted with colourful flowers. Toutai and Ertai were the two places with the greatest number of mountain flowers, which appeared like colourful morning clouds in the valley. The Fruit Valley was also known as "The Ten-Thousand Flowers Valley". On its north side were forests of luxuriant pine and birch trees, which spread from the top of the mountain to its foot. The pine trees at the top of the forest were uniquely shaped, with each looking like a pagoda, they lay row upon row, forming a large forest.

Leaving the Fruit Valley, we came to the Ili River Valley. The open country in late spring was a world of flowers. Red peach blossoms, golden rape flowers and large apple flowers attracted swarms of bees to dance around them.

At the bank of the Ili River we visited the ancient tomb of the king of Wusun. After that, we went to the famous historical city, Huiyuan, to visit the site of a general's old residence. When we walked into the large compound with high surrounding walls, we seemed to have entered a garden in southern China. Inside the compound were tall ancient trees, halls and pavilions and winding paths and corridors, from which we could see the magnificence and scale of the original buildings. In the back yard of the compound we visited the sites of a seal house, an ordnance depot and a stable. Everything there made us meditate on the past.

Translated by Xiong Zhenru

A Guide to Tours Along the Silk Road in Xinjiang

ARTICLE BY LI CHANGSHENG

As an ancient route of great historical significance, the Silk Road is a great attraction for tourists from China and overseas. In China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the Silk Road splits into three: the Southern, the Central and the Northern routes, covering about 5,000 kilometres altogether. It is difficult to cover all three routes in one trip, but here is an itinerary for each, which take approximately 16 days.

Travellers along the endless Silk Road (by Wang Miao)

The Central Route Tour

After visiting the noted Mogao Caves at Dunhuang in Gansu Province, the visitor can ride northwest to Liuyuan to take a bus or change to a train bound for Hami — the eastern entrance to Xin-jiang from Gansu. Then stay at Hami Guesthouse for a two-day visit in the city. Tourist sites in Hami include the Tomb of the Hami King, the Tomb of Gaiz, the Wubao Ancient Tombs and the Tianshan Mountains. If one goes there during the fruit season, one can taste the famous Hami melons. On the third day take a bus or go by train to Turpan.

For those who travel by air to Urümqi, capital of Xinjiang, they can go to visit Tianchi Lake in the Tianshan Mountains on the first day and tour the Nanshan Baiyang Gully Scenic Area and then Glacier No. 1 of the Tianshan Mountains on the second day. On the third day, a three-hour ride takes you from Urümqi to Turpan, southeast of the capital. Accommodation can be arranged at Turpan Guesthouse or Lüzhou (Oasis) Guesthouse, both with fairly good facilities. The restaurants in the guesthouses, however, offer mainly Muslim food.

Gaochang Ancient City, Bozaikrik Thousand Buddha Caves, and Hastana-Halahezhou Cemetery are the sites for the fourth day's visit. One can experience the sweltering climate on the way passing the Flaming Mountain area, but once you arrive at the Grape Valley, you'll feel pleasantly cool. After dinner, Uygur songs and dances are performed for the guests.

The fifth day's itinerary include visiting the site of Jiaohe City (Yarkhoto), Emin Minaret, Karez wells (underground diversion works) and Aydingkol Lake located 40 kilometres southwest of Turpan.

Leaving Turpan on the sixth day one rides 400 kilometres along a trunk highway to Korla, the capital of Bayingolin Mongolian Autonomous Prefecture. Stay at the Bayingolin Guesthouse or Loulan Guesthouse. Mongolian style banquets are offered for dinner.

For the seventh day the scenic attractions are Tiemen (Iron Door) Pass and Bosten Lake. The visitor can taste a "fish meal" on the Lake from which the fish are caught. Bayanbulak Grassland, 200 kilometres from Bosten Lake, is the destination for the eighth day, where one can watch swans on this "swan lake". On the ninth day one goes further west to Kuqa, the site of the ancient Kingdom of Qiuci, and enjoys on the way the views of Dalong (Huge Dragon) Pool and Ghost Valley in the depths of the Tianshan Mountains. Stay at Qiuci Guesthouse in Kuqa. The next day (the 10th) visit the ruins of Kuqa City, Kuqa Temple and Zhaohuli Temples, Kuntula Thousand Buddha Caves, Kizirgarkar Thousand Buddha Caves and Kizirgarkar Beacon Tower. Traditional folk handicrafts such as uniquely made daggers and embroidered hats are ideal souvenirs for the visitor to Kuqa. Qiuci songs and dances are arranged for the evening entertain ment.

On the 11th day one continues to Baicheng and visit Kirzil Thousand Buddha Caves which are one of the largest grottoes in China. Then ride to Aksu and spend the night at the Friendship Hotel.

On the 12th day arrive at Artux, the capital of Kizilsu Kirgiz Autonomous Prefecture after a 400-kilometre journey, and stay at Kizilsu Guesthouse. The 13th day's visit include Sulitang Mazar and the fig orchard. Then ride 30 kilometres south to Kashi and visit Sanxian (Three Immortals) Cave on the way. Stay at Seman Guesthouse or Kashgar Guesthouse. After lunch visit Id Kak Mosque in the city centre. If it is a Sunday, one can tour the grand bazaar. Under the arrangement of your tourist agency, you can also visit a Uygur family to experience the local life style.

On the 14th day visit Abhoja (Xiangfei) Tomb and Mohammd Garshgali's Tomb. Kashi is known as "the home of melons and fruit"; one can savour different kinds of fruit in Baishikara Orchard during harvest seasons.

Kashi is China's westernmost strategic city on the Central Route of the Silk Road before crossing the Pamirs. Going westward from Kashi on the 15th day one can reach the Turugart check-point which is open to transnational travellers to and from Kirghiz. Those who are not ready for the tour can take a flight to Urümqi and from there to Beijing, Shanghai or Guangzhou to wind up the journey.

The Southern Route Tour

The Southern Route of the Silk Road in Xinjiang was an early route to the west. At present the route is not in a good condition as sections of it are merged in sand. It is advised that jeeps are used to negotiate this route. However, it is an attraction to adventurers to experience the hardship along the ancient silk road.

Day One: Starting early from Dunhuang in Gansu Province, the visitor arrives at the county seat of Ruoqiang in the evening, passing through Yangguan Pass in the west. For this long journey, which threads across mountains and barren desert with sparse inhabitants, one has to bring enough food and drink, and better goes in company with several other vehicles so as to help each other in case your car breaks down on the way. Accommodation is available at the county hostel.

Day Two: Start your trip at dawn to the ruins of Miran City 70 kilometres to the northeast of Ruoqiang. Lunch is available at Xinjiang 36th Regiment of Farming and Land-Reclamation Corps. Return to Ruoqiang in the afternoon.

Located to the northeast of the town of Miran, the road to the famous site of Miran City in the depth of a desert is hard and dangerous. Don't take any chances without sufficient preparation.

Day Three: A 370-kilometre ride southeast from Ruoqiang takes you to Qiemo. This road goes through a desert; some sections are buried in sand. One has to get out and push the car from time to time when the wheels of the car sink in the sand. Tools such as spakes and planks should be ready for emergencies. Stay at Qiemo Guesthouse for the night.

Day Four: Leaving Qiemo and going 300 kilometres west, one arrives at the county town of Minfeng. Large patches of Huyang poplars can be seen on the way.

Day Five: About 250 kilometres to the north of Minfeng one finds the ruins of Niya in the depth of a desert. It is believed to be the site of the Kingdom of Jingjue during the Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 24). To get to this site one has to go on camel-back.

Day Six: Going 300 kilometres from Minfeng one arrives at Hotan, stopping at the county seat of Yutian for lunch on the way. In the streets of Yutian the visitor can see the unique attire and headdresses of the Uygur women.

Before dinner the visitor arrives at Hotan and accommodates at Hotan Hotel. Hotan is a strategic town in southern Xinjiang, described as a rich and fertile place in *The Travels of Marco Polo.*

Day Seven: Sightseeing in Hotan to appreciate the town's three treasures — jade, silk and carpets. If you are lucky enough you'll find some jade stones at the river valleys. One can buy carpets full of local flavour from Hotan Carpet Factory or at bazaars. Visit an Aidis silk factory and buy a piece of traditionally hand-crafted Aidis silk as a souvenir. Other attractions in Hotan include the ancient city of Meiligawat and the ruins of Yotkan.

Day Eight: Going further west across the desert, one reaches Shache at noon. After lunch visit Amanishakhan Tomb and then ride to Kashi to stay at Seman Guesthouse or Keniwak Guesthouse.

Day Nine and Day Ten: Sightseeing in Kashi (scenic spots same as those mentioned in the Central Route Tour).

Day Eleven: Go south from Kashi to Taxkorgan Tazik Autonomous County. Lunch is available at Karakuli Lake Restaurant where one can enjoy the scenery of the lake and Mount Muztagata. Then continue the journey to the county town of Taxkorgan and stay at the Pamirs Guesthouse.

Day Twelve: Visit the Stone City, Princess Fort and Aoyitak Primitive Forest.

Day Thirteen: Proceeding west from Taxkorgan, the visitor comes to Kunjirap border check-point, passing a number of ancient courier posts on the Silk Road while drinking in the beauty of the Pamirs. The Sino-Pakistani boundary tablet is located nearby, at 4,700 metres above sea level. To those who have mountain sickness, oxygen bags are indispensible. Going south from here across the Kunjirap mountain pass one enters northern Pakistani territory, which was the site of the eastern part of the ancient Kingdom of Dayuezhi. If crossing the Mingteke mountain pass, the tourist will find himself in Afghanistan. Those who are not ready to tour Pakistan can return to Taxkorgan and stay there for the night.

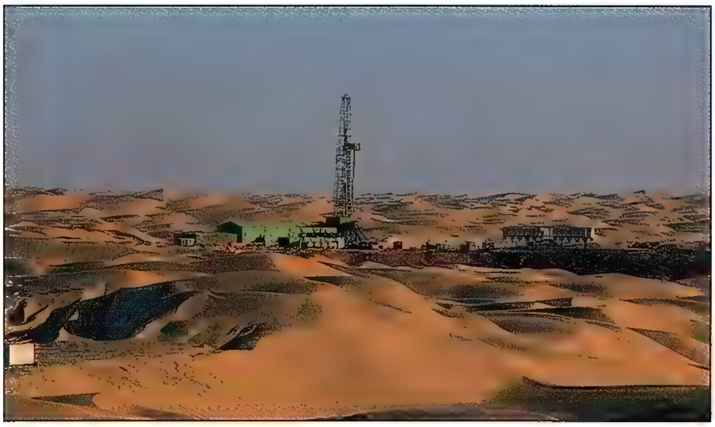
Day Fourteen: Return to Kashi from Taxkorgan.

Day Fifteen: Take a flight to Urümqi.

From May 1 to October 31 is the period the check-point opens for visitors from the third country to Pakistan. Those who have the appropriate visas can make a transnational tour through the Kunjirap check-point during this period

The Northern Route Tour

After visiting the Mogao Caves in Dunhuang, go to Xinjiang's Hami City by train from Liuyuan Railway Station. Stay at Hami Guesthouse. From Hami to Mori via Barkol one has to cross mountains and ridges along a rugged road, so jeeps are a better option for this trip.



Petroleum drilling appears in the depth of a desert in Tarim Basin (by Liang Feng).

Day One: Starting from Hami one goes north passing through the Tianshan Mountains to Barkol (called Pulie Kingdom during the Han Dynasty), a strategic town on the Northern Route. Stay the night at the hostel of the county seat.

Day Two: Visit the Baishitou Scenic Area and Barkol Lake, and enjoy sand sliding on Mingsha Hill. Then continue the journey to Qitai and stay at Qitai Hostel. Along the way to Qitai one can see from time to time ancient beacon towers by the roadside.

Day Three: Going northward to Jiangjun (General) Desert one sees plant and dinosaur fossils dating back to one hundred million years ago. Return to Qitai in the evening.

Day Four: Arrive at Jimsar and visit the site of Beiting City, Beiting Temple and Wucaiwan where one finds various wind-eroded landforms. If you're lucky, you will see mirages in the desert on the way. Return to Jimsar and stay at the county hostel.

Day Five: Arrive at the Tianshan Mountain Scenic Area in Fukang from Jimsar. Stay at Holiday Inn Urümqi or other hotels after arriving in Urümqi before dinner.

Day Six and Day Seven: Sightsee in the city and visit other scenic spots in its vicinity (same as those mentioned in the Central Route Tour).

Day Eight: Ride to Hutubi County to see rock pictures of primitive reproduction worship at Kangjiashimenzi in the depth of the Tianshan Mountains.

Continue the trip to Shihezi — a new city of farming and land-reclamation — by dinner time. Stay at Shihezi Guesthouse which boasts fairly good facilities.

Day Nine: Go west from Shihezi to Kuytun City. Lunch is arranged at Jinghe Guesthouse. In the afternoon visit Tarim Lake Scenic Area. Stay at Grassland Guesthouse.

Day Ten: Continue to go west from Tarim Lake, passing the beautiful Guozi Gully and arrive at Korgas border check-point — the entrance to Kazakhstan. The border here has been opened to travellers from a third country with a valid visa.

After lunch, visit the city of Yining, an important town in the westernmost of China 50 kilometres southeast of Korgas. The visitor has many options for accommodation in the city.

Day Eleven: Turuk Timurkhan Mazar, Bell Tower of Huiyuan ancient city and the site of the Mansion of Ili General are worthy a visit at the tourist spots near Yining.

Day Twelve: About 90 Kilometres northwest of Yining the visitor finds the site of Alimali, a famous city during the Song and Yuan dynasties, and later the capital of the Mongol Qahar Khan Kingdom.

Ruins of city walls still stand there. On the way back to Yining, one can stop to visit the mysterious Huolong (Fire Dragon) Cave.

Day Thirteen: If time permits, Tangbula Grassland is an ideal site for nature lovers to experience the pastoral life of the local people.

Day Fourteen: There are daily flights from Yining to Urümqi. A one-hour flight will bring you to Urümqi from Yining and that's the end of your Northern Route Tour.

Xinjiang is a vast region with rich tourist resources. However, the scenic spots are scattered and the routes are very long. It is a common thing to cover 100 kilometres a day. Any of the three routes needs more than 10 days for only a cursory tour. This is different from any tour in other parts of the country.

Because of the changeable climate in Xinjiang, even if you go there in summer, you should bring extra clothing.

Translated by K.V. Ku

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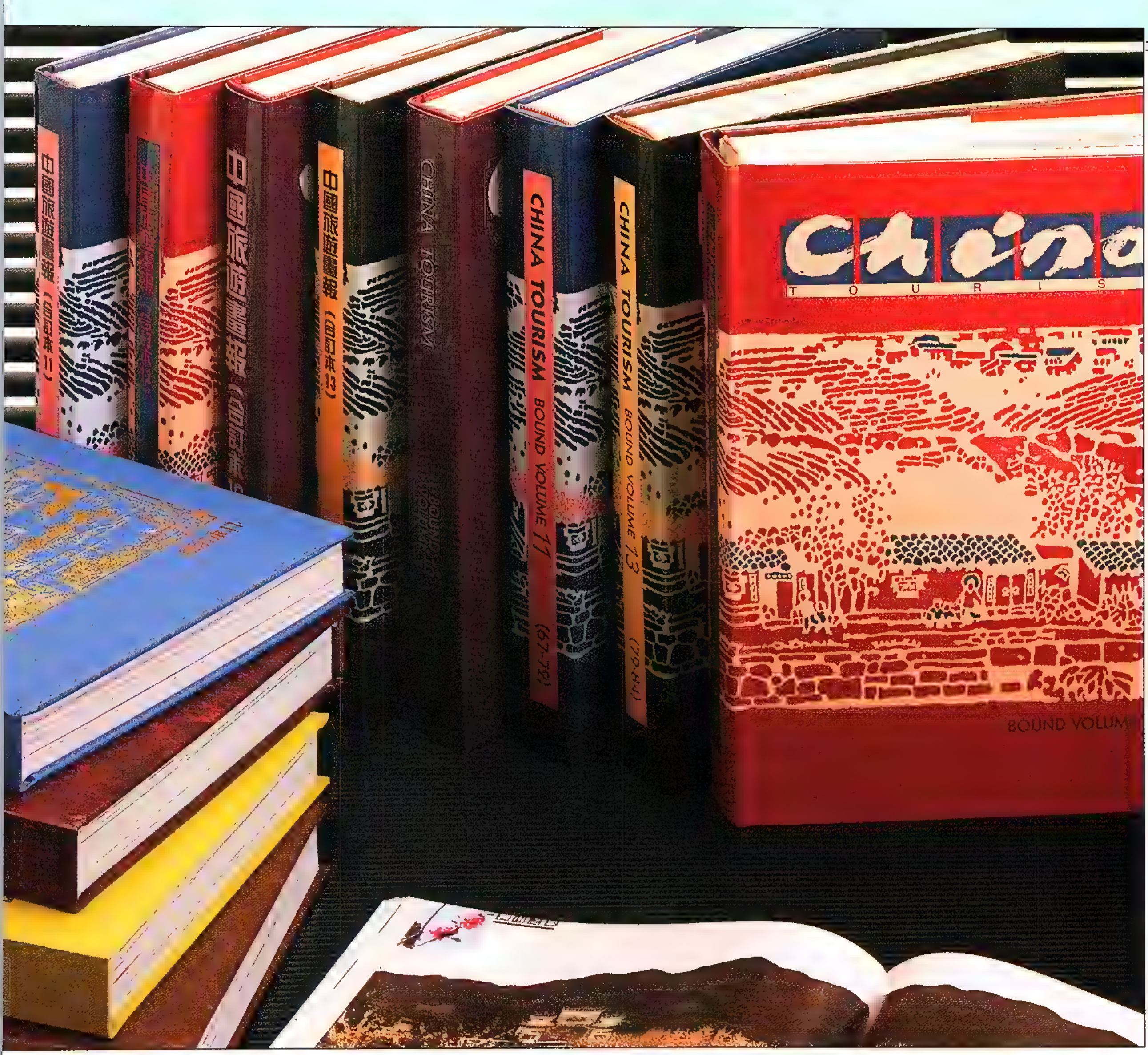

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The Crystal Waters of Lake Fuxian

PHOTOS BY PENG ZHEN GE
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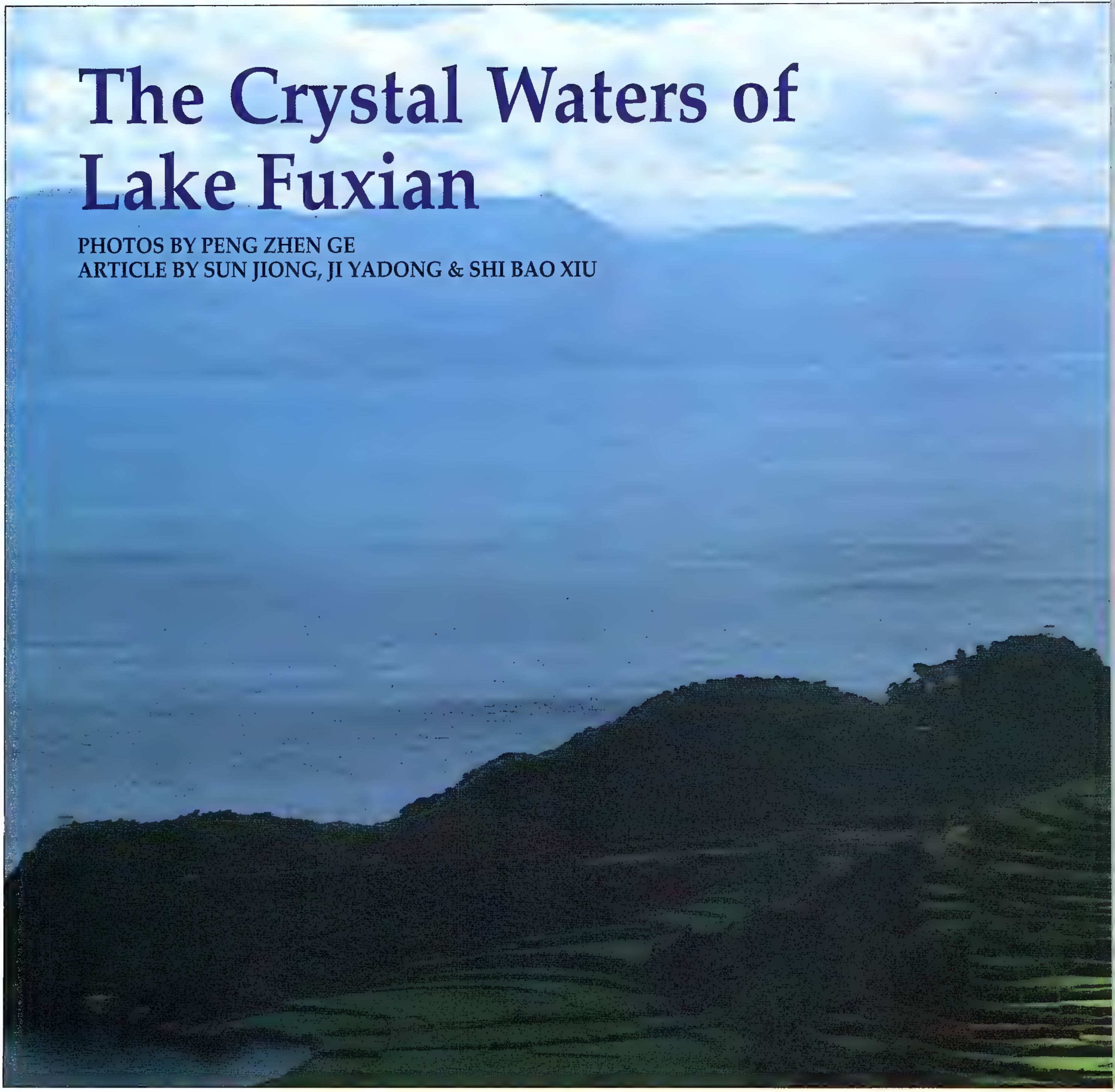

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In central Yunnan Province, in southwestern China, there is a well-known fairy tale, which goes like this: Once upon a time the Jade Emperor in heaven wanted to know what was happening in the world of man, so he sent two deities, Xiao and Shi, to investigate. One day the two came upon a vast expanse of water which was so clear they could see the bottom. Fascinated by this, they stopped and gazed into the water, until eventually, the passage of time transformed them into two stones, standing side by side at the edge of the water.

Of course, this is simply a folk tale, but both the rocks and the water exist — Lake Fuxian in central Yunnan has amazingly clear water, and on its shores stand two rocks, which look like two deities standing side by side.

One cool autumn day, we boarded a bus in Kunming, the capital of Yunnan, bound for Lake Fuxian. That evening, we arrived in the county town of Chengjiang, and immediately set off for Fengwu (Phoenix-Dancing) Mountain, on the outskirts of town, to watch the sun set over Lake Fuxian. The road passed through thick forest as it wound its way up the mountain, and we didn't get a view until we reached the summit. When we

Fuxian is the deepest lake with the purest water on the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau (1). ■ *Vegetables grown by the lakeside are extremely fresh and tender, and free from any pollution (2).* ■ *A park stands on the southern bank of the lake (3).*

did, it was spectacular. Close by were towering trees, their leaves an autumnal red. At the foot of the mountain, the plain stretched away into the distance, where we could see more mountains. In the middle of the plain, Chengjiang Town was nestled in the evening haze. Far off, glistening in the light of the setting sun, lay Lake Fuxian.

Back in Chengjiang, we had a quick dinner, then headed for Xilong (West Dragon) Pool, four kilometres away. The pool is much bigger than most mountain pools, and water flows from it into Lake Yangzong to the north, via underground streams. The evidence for this is apparently that red-coat fish exist in all three lakes, but that they breed in the pool, and swim along the underground streams, or down the river, to live in all three lakes.

Clear and Pure Water

Early the next morning we went to Lake Fuxian itself. The lake is large, covering an area of over 20,000 hectares, shaped roughly like an upside-down gourd. It is also China's second deepest lake, 151 metres at its deepest point. The water is the purest in Yunnan, as pure as distilled water. We walked down a gentle hill, covered with rocky outcroppings, to the shore of the lake. The water was so clear we could see rocks on the bottom, five or six metres deep, and even snails and mussels clinging to them. Near Chengjiang there is sandy beach, popular with tourists from Kunming in the summer, but where we were, there was an abrupt divide between land and water: The lake lapped against the grass and crops of the shore. Green bamboo grew thickly along the edge of the lake, its roots dipping into the lake.

Night Fishing

As we walked along the shores of the lake, we came to the fishing village of Luchong, its two or three hundred households nestled in the autumn tones of the woods. Despite its remoteness, it had produced scholars during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) who had joined the Imperial Academy. Today the village also caters to the tourist trade, and there are many small inns there.

On the shore in front of the village there were fishing boats bobbing in the shallows, but no sign of any fishermen.

I had heard it said that the biggest fish in Yunnan come from Lake Fuxian, but when I saw the lake and the clarity of its water, I was not so sure, because fish are not supposed to like very clear water.

An old man we found peacefully smoking on a flight of steps in the village was able to put me right. "Who says fish don't like clear water?" he asked. "Tourists come here, see the clear water but no fish, so assume there are none. What they don't realize is how deep the lake is. Do you know how deep it is? For generations, the best swimmers of the village would try to touch the bottom, but no one ever managed it. Later, the Hydrometric Bureau surveyed the lake, and found that in places it is over 150 metres deep. Obviously there are fish in a lake that deep, and they are often very big. In Black Carp Bay, they often catch carp weighing over 100 kilograms." When I asked him why there were no fishermen working, he explained that the fishermen of Lake Fuxian cannot work during the day, because of the clarity of the water. The fish can see the fishermen, and they swim away. Therefore the boats go out at night, and the fishing is done by lamplight.

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Autumn scene by Lake Fuxian (1, by Xu Jinyan) ▪ Fish from the lake taste delicious (2, by Xu Jinyan). ▪ Luchong Village benefits greatly from the lake (3). ▪ Ships are "playgrounds" for children of fishing families (4).

There is, incidentally, another method of fishing peculiar to Fuxian Lake. Along the western edge of the lake, fishermen use what are known as *yugou*, or fish-ditches, to ensure a steady supply of piscine meals. Stone-lined channels, or ditches, are dug from the lake's edge, running into shallow pools. As the pools are much less deep than the lake, they are consequently much warmer. The fish are attracted by the warm water and swim in, and the fishermen can then scoop them out at their leisure. From the fishes' point of view, it would have been better to have remained a "cold fish".

There is one fish commonly caught during the daytime, a fish known as "wave-attacking fish", which jump through the waves during the day. The fish, though small and flat, are tender and delicious. Although the best time to catch them is in late summer when they spawn, our hosts managed to catch us some, and cooked them on the spot. They were lovely. Our hosts said that the wave-attacking fish had to be eaten fresh, as they rotted very quickly. During the season, fishmongers come and whiz the fish back into town on motorcycles, so as to ensure their freshness.

An Old Taoist Temple

The next day we continued our journey around the lake, following a track used by horse-drawn carts to carry people to the mar-

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ket. At noon we left Chengjiang County and entered Jiangchuan.

We came to a large, old temple on a small hill. It was a Taoist temple, known as Biyun Temple. Although the temple was a long way off the beaten track, it was exquisite. A flight of stone steps wound up from the foot of the hill, connecting all the halls, pavilions and towers, and the towering trees threw patches of deep shade. It was quietly and classically elegant. At the top of the hill was an ancient tower, from where you could gaze out across the lake and the hills. In the temple, the shrines of Lü Dongbing, one of the Eight Immortals, Lu Ban, believed to be the founder and patron saint of the building trade in ancient China, the Monkey King and Lao Zi, the founder of Taoism, are all worshipped.

At the foot of the hill lies Mingxing Village. Formerly a fishing village, it now has many inns for tourists. Interestingly, none of the inns have baths, because as the tourist season is in the summer, the guests bathe in the waters of the lake.

The inns are simply furnished and clean and comfortable. Local delicacies on offer included mushrooms and fungi from the mountain, vegetables from their own vegetable gardens, and fish from the lake. The food was delicious, and surprisingly cheap.

The Fish Border Between Two Lakes

That afternoon we continued around the lake. We had started from the north of the lake, and now we were nearly at the southernmost tip. A small river flowed sluggishly out of Lake Fuxian, through a valley studded with farm houses among the multi-coloured autumnal forest. We went west along, the Jade Belt River and came to a group of old towers and pavilions. There was a huge rock by the riverside, bearing the inscription "Fish Boundary Rock", apparently written by an imperial envoy of the Ming Dynasty. For centuries, people have believed that the fish of the two lakes connected by the Jade Belt River would not swim from one lake to the other, but would only go as far as this rock. The wave-attacking fish of Lake Fuxian and the "big-head" fish of Lake Xingyun would stop at the boundary marked by the rock, then turn back. The generally accepted view nowadays is that the difference in the water between the two lakes stops the fish from intermingling. In contrast to the crystal-clear water of Fuxian, Lake Xingyun is much muddier. The fish are accustomed to the different waters, and have adapted to it. Although the waters of Lake Fuxian may be less nutritious, they are certainly more spectacular.

The Fish Boundary Rock separates Lake Fuxian from Lake Xingyun (1). ▪ The lake surface reflects the fluctuations of the weather (2).

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Translated by Xiong Zhenru

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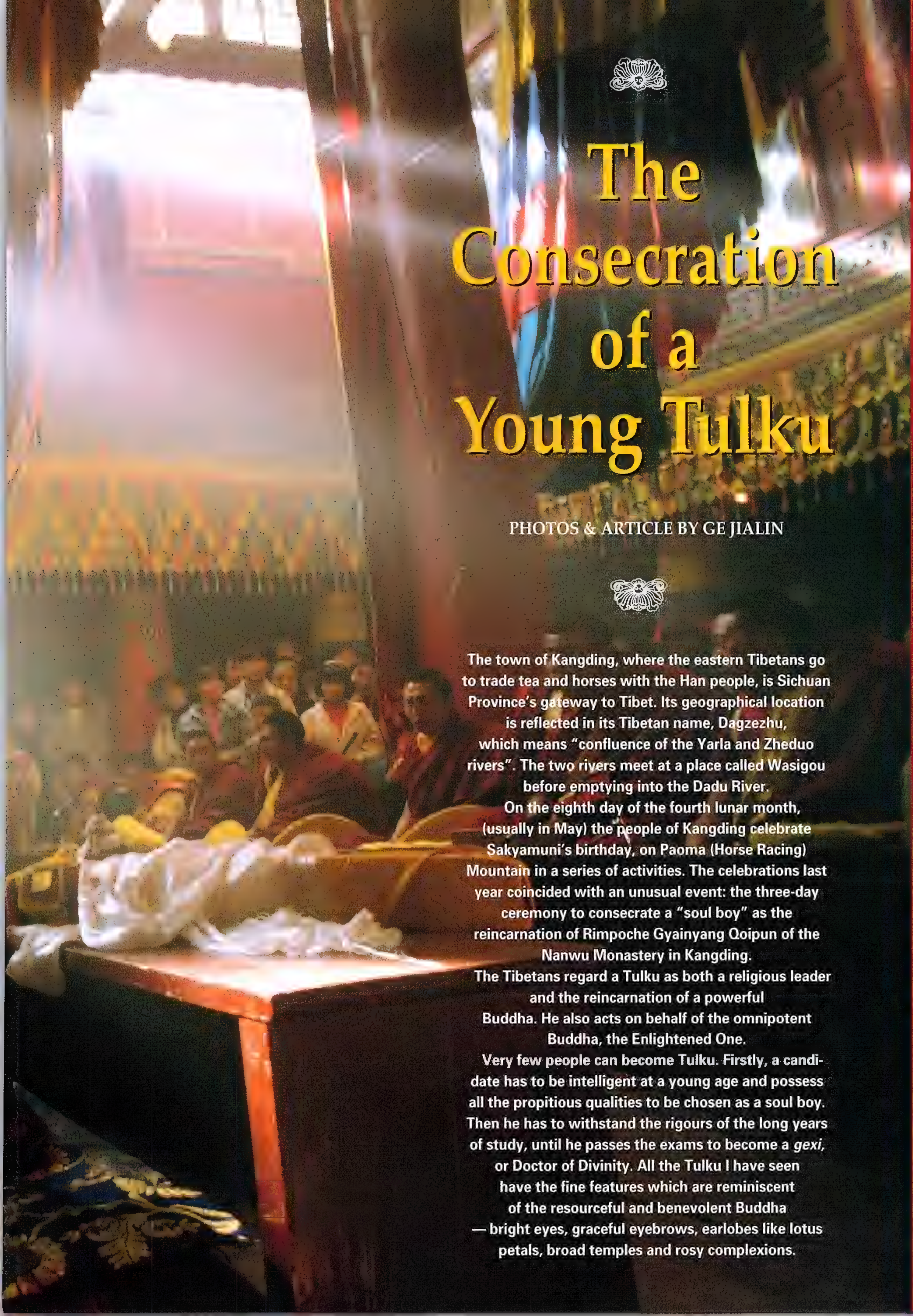


The Consecration of a Young Tulku

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY GE JIALIN

The town of Kangding, where the eastern Tibetans go to trade tea and horses with the Han people, is Sichuan Province's gateway to Tibet. Its geographical location is reflected in its Tibetan name, Dagzezhu, which means "confluence of the Yarla and Zheduo rivers". The two rivers meet at a place called Wasigou before emptying into the Dadu River.

On the eighth day of the fourth lunar month, (usually in May) the people of Kangding celebrate Sakyamuni's birthday, on Paoma (Horse Racing) Mountain in a series of activities. The celebrations last year coincided with an unusual event: the three-day ceremony to consecrate a "soul boy" as the reincarnation of Rimpoche Gyainyang Qoipun of the Nanwu Monastery in Kangding.

The Tibetans regard a Tulku as both a religious leader and the reincarnation of a powerful Buddha. He also acts on behalf of the omnipotent Buddha, the Enlightened One.

Very few people can become Tulku. Firstly, a candidate has to be intelligent at a young age and possess all the propitious qualities to be chosen as a soul boy. Then he has to withstand the rigours of the long years of study, until he passes the exams to become a *gexi*, or Doctor of Divinity. All the Tulku I have seen have the fine features which are reminiscent of the resourceful and benevolent Buddha — bright eyes, graceful eyebrows, earlobes like lotus petals, broad temples and rosy complexions.

Facing page top: *The young Nyima Oiser sitting on the Tulku's throne*
Facing page bottom: *A scene at the sorcere's carnival: The dancers' energetic steps bring one old tale after another to life.*

Top: *Well-wishers expressing their gratitude to Rimpoche Kushug Targyai, who has been given the task of taking care of the newly installed Tulku, as his scriptural tutor*
Bottom: *Holy water contained in a silver kettle is to be sprinkled over pious followers.*

The Tulku are ranked in importance, from the Dalai and Panchen Lamas to the abbots of small monasteries. The title used to be hereditary, but in the 13th century this was changed. Marpa, the father of the Kargyutpa or White Sect of Tibetan Buddhism, transformed the system into one dependent on reincarnation. The reincarnation system became necessarily more widespread when Tsongkhapa, leader of the Gelugpa, or Yellow Sect, forbade lamas from marrying. The titles of the Dalai and Panchen lamas were the first to come under this system.

In 1792, Emperor Qianlong of the Qing Dynasty adopted a new reincarnation system, under which incarnations of all Tulkus registered with the government department in charge of minority affairs should be chosen by drawing lots, and subject to official ratification.

Before a Tulku dies, he writes his testament, to be read only after his death, with instructions predicting the whereabouts of his successor, or soul boy. Following his instructions, four senior lamas (known as Guardians of the Dharma) check the oracles, perform divinations and look for revelations. According to the clues provided by the divinations — visions of mountains, rivers, cattle, sheep and houses, for instance — the lamas search high and low until they find a number of children who fit the description. The children are carefully screened as to the circumstances of their birth, their health and intelligence and the moral conduct of their parents.

The Qing government adopted a number of measures to prevent fraudulent practices in this complicated process. The Four Guardians of the Dharma were required to write in Manchu, Tibetan and Han Chinese the names and birth dates of the soul boys on tags, and seal these in an officially-granted gold urn. After a seven-day prayer session, the Hutukhtus (government-certified Rimpoche second only to the Dalai and Panchen lamas in position) and the Qing commissioner of Tibet would gather in the Jokhang Monastery in Lhasa. There, before the statue of Sakyamuni as a 12-year-old boy, brought to Tibet by Princess Wen Cheng, they would draw a name from the urn. If there was only one candidate, a blank tag would be added, and if that was drawn, the candidate would be annulled, and the search would start all over again. As an official tool for the search for the soul boy, the urn was kept in front of a statue of Tsongkhapa.

In many cases, it takes years of arduous work before the prospective soul boy for a deceased Tulku of the highest rank can be found and verified. Once a Tulku is chosen, a propitious date for his elaborate "sitting on the bed" ceremony is selected, to consecrate him as the reincarnation of the Tulku. Despite differences in rank, the ceremonies are very similar.

Soul Boys for Rimpoche Gyainyang Qoipun

The 100-year-old Nanwu Monastery sits atop a hill in the western part of Kangding. In the distance, the Paoma Mountain rises on the southern bank of the Zheduo River. Despite its relatively short history, the monastery is known far and wide as a resting place for the Dalai and Panchen lamas during their sojourns in this area. The monastery is also known for its abbot, the first Rimpoche Gyainyang Qoipun, who was so well-versed in Buddhist canons that during his lifetime he developed a large following, not just among Tibetans but also the Han Chinese in the region.

The first Tulku was born in Danba, Sichuan Province. When he was 12 he was tonsured, took novice vows and became a lama. After winning his *gexi* degree in the Sera Monastery in Tibet, he was installed as the abbot of the Jugba Monastery, before coming to Kangding to preside over the Nanwu Monastery. In the intervening years he recruited 13 Han disciples from the interior of China.

In 1930, the abbot fell sick, and told the high lamas of the monastery that he was going to leave the mundane world in the winter, and would be reincarnated somewhere in the Yalong River Valley. "Go there, please," he said, "and in the midst of blossoming apricot trees, you will find a family whose father is called Nganzhub and the mother called Zhoigar."

As predicted, the soul boy was discovered amid peach blossom in the Yalong River Valley. When a number of objects were placed before the boy, called Lobsong Dainzen, he immediately grabbed the wooden bowl the abbot had used all his life, and refused to let go of it. All his other traits helped identify him as the reincarnation of the Tulku.

When he was only three, Lobsong Dainzen became the

Nyima Oiser, in religious garb, is all seriousness as he waits for his well-wishers to file past his throne and receive his blessings.

◆

second Rimpoche Gyainyang Qoipun. At 12, he was sent to study the sutras in the Drepung Monastery, and after he gained his divinity doctorate, returned to Nanwu Monastery to serve as the abbot. In 1986, at the end of his life, he told the senior monks, "I've completed my Satparamita, and now comes the end of my life. I'm going to Qianning. Please meet me there."

According to his instructions, scouts were sent to Qianning. Situated between Yajiang and Dawu on the Dadu and the Yalong River valleys, it is a part-agricultural, part-pastoral area, with a pleasant climate. In Huoyuan Village, the scouts were impressed by the scenery, with clear gurgling streams and white pear flowers running up the hillsides to meet the snow line, creating a pure, white world. Seven years ago, a boy called Nyima Oiser was born here.

One night, his mother had dreamed of an old lama who had arrived from the other side of the snow-clad Zheduo Mountains. Tired by his long journey, he begged her to put him up until the pear trees started to bear fruit. "If you will let me stay, I will repay your kindness," he said, sitting cross-legged on the ground murmuring Buddhist incantations. The sympathetic woman gave him a bowl of mare's milk and *zamba* (roasted barley flour), and looked after him.

Soon after this dream, she found herself pregnant. Nine months later, when the clusters of large, sweet pears hung heavy on the trees, a snow-white *hata* floated out of nowhere and descended to the gate. When dusk fell, the sky became unusually bright, and a rainbow rose across the distant snowy peaks. A flock of auspicious birds flew overhead and hovered above the house, a sign of good luck. The wind rustled through the pine forest, like the sounding of a religious conch. It was then that Nyima Oisen was born.

At first, 114 boys from Qianning were chosen, but were quickly whittled down to 10 after rigorous screening. Then another seven were eliminated. Finally, three names went into the urn, and that of Nyima Oisen was chosen.

Consecration of the Tulku

I had an opportunity to observe the grand ceremony held on Sakyamuni's birthday to consecrate Nyima

A debate in session in the prayer hall

Left: *This Tibetan old man is overjoyed now that he has received the young Tulku's blessings.*

Oisen as the third Rimpoche Gyainyang Qoipun of Nanwu Monastery.

The atmosphere in the prayer hall where the ceremony was to be held was solemn. A thousand glimmering butter-oil lamps were arranged in a glowing golden belt around the hall. Under a colourful canopy suspended from the ceiling, prayer streamers and Thangka pictures hung down. Hundreds of lamas sat and chanted quietly. Leading this smooth litany, the chief lama cupped his mouth with his hand to increase the resonance of his voice. The prayers rose and fell in waves, creating an air of awe and serenity.

The doors were flung open to admit a group of young lamas, the incense burners in their hands filling the hall with the scent of sandalwood. Pairs of lamas entered, holding peacock feathers and silver basins. After prayers, the water in them would be sanctified, and would be holy water for the pious onlookers. A third group of lamas entered, carrying the clothing and day-to-day articles of the soul boy. When Nyima Oisen finally entered, with his scriptural tutor Kushug Targyai, the hall bubbled with jubilation, and the volume and excitement of the chanting increased. Well wishers — both Tibetan and Han — prayed and fervently protocol themselves.

When county and prefectural officials and local religious officials had taken their seats, following a highly stylized protocol, the ceremony was proclaimed open. While the soul boy was attended by a senior lama, distinguished guests and local officials took the floor to make speeches of congratulations. In lieu of an imperial edict and gold seal, a Tulku's certificate was presented to Nyima by the government of the Garzê Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. Rimpoche Kushug Targyai, highly esteemed for his moral and professional accomplishments, was granted a Scriptural Tutor's Certificate, to take charge of the young Tulku's education and moral training.

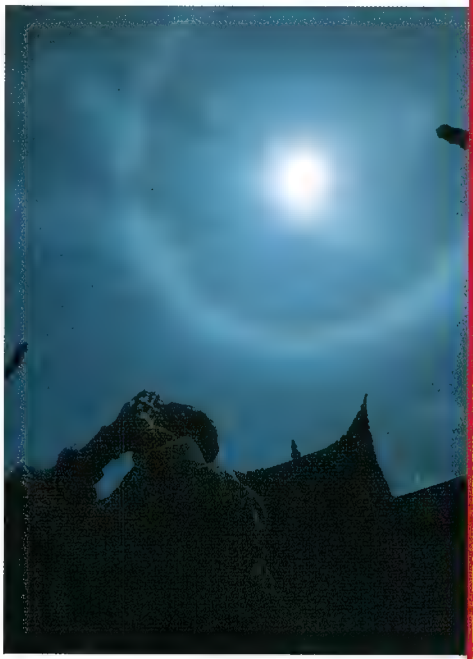
When the pile of *hatas* presented to Nyima and his tutor had reached an enormous size, the chairman announced that it was time for the Tulku to ascend to the abbot's throne. Escorted by the crowd, the beaming Nyima took his high seat, put on his pointed hat and yellow cassock, and solemnly sat down. People then filed past him, presenting gifts — *hatas*, food, toys, banknotes — which were received by a priest beside the throne. The Tulku gave his blessing by touching the head of each well-wisher. When the crowd grew too big, he took a silk scroll covered with Buddhist texts, and floated it over their heads. Even such an indirect blessing was enough to satisfy the people who were thronging the hall. There was a constant stream of people, many elderly, and many bringing sick or handicapped relatives. Some were from other counties of the province, some from as far as Jilin in Northeast China and Fujian and Guangdong in the south. The blessings lasted until two in the afternoon.

The second day of the ceremony was devoted to a sorcerer's carnival. More than 200 people took part, masquerading as deities, animals and goblins and carrying religious objects and weapons, they re-enacted old stories, dancing all day.

On the third day, the local people turned out to watch the "Sunning the Great Buddha" ceremony. An enormous piece of cloth with a picture of the Buddha was hung from the front of the monastery, and the people walked around it, chanting incantations for the well-being of the new Tulku. The sun came out, bathing the monastery in golden light, and the people took this as an auspicious sign, and started to bow to the sun as well. During this, Nyima sat by his tutor, looking on unblinkingly. He knew he would say goodbye to his parents after the ceremony, and would start his life afresh, filling the shoes of his predecessor. The great Buddhist traditions of Tibet continue, in the form of a seven-year-old boy.

Translated by Ling Yuan

The sun shines over the monastery, which the religious followers see as a sign of good luck.



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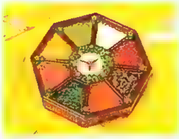

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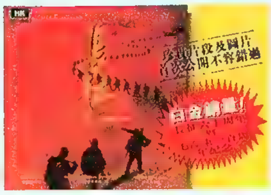

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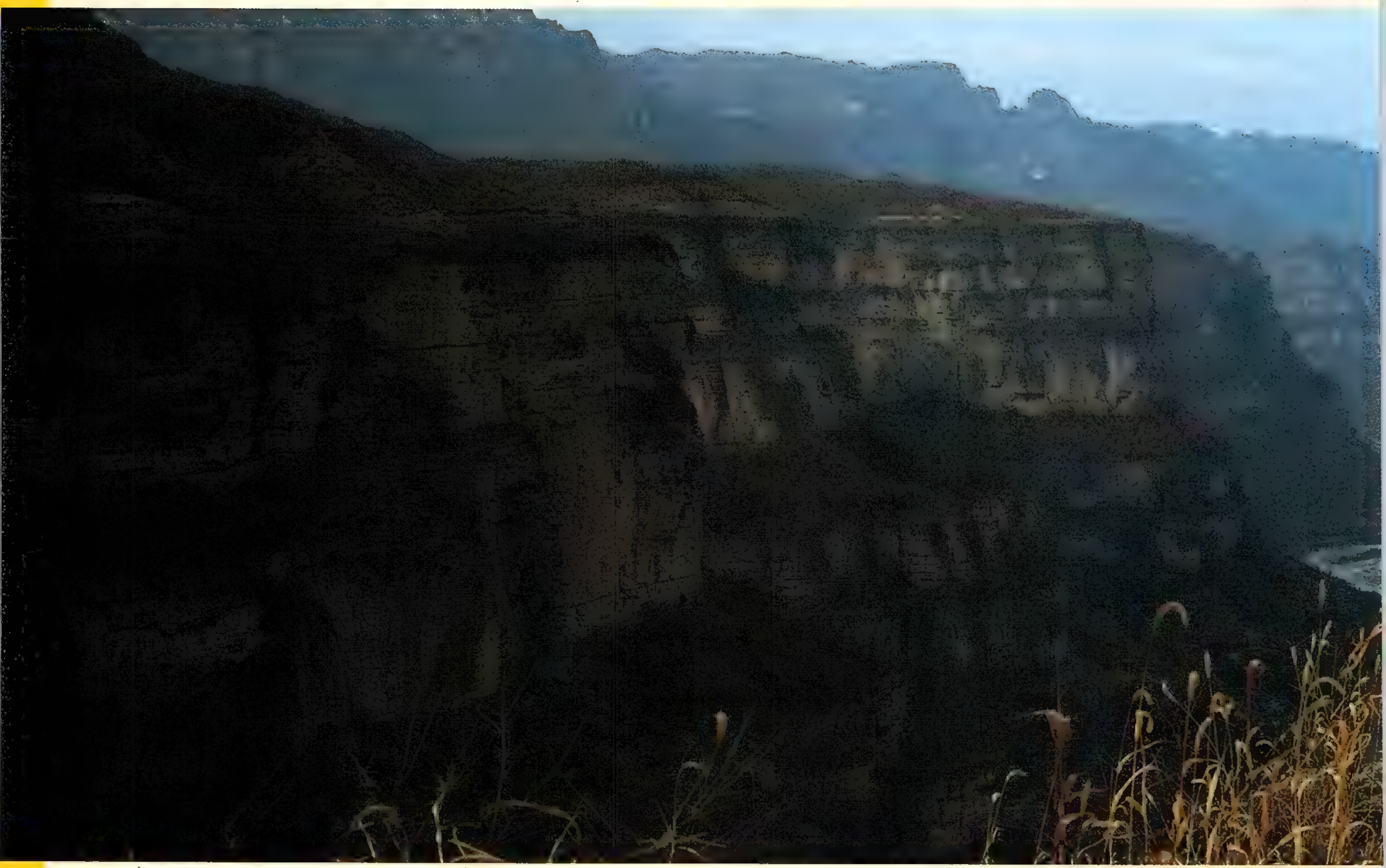
Taijiquan is the most popular activity in the Chen Family Glen (by Wang Yaojin).



Chen Xiaowang, a 19th generation upholder of the Chen-style Taijiquan, is a master of martial arts (by Wang Yaojin).

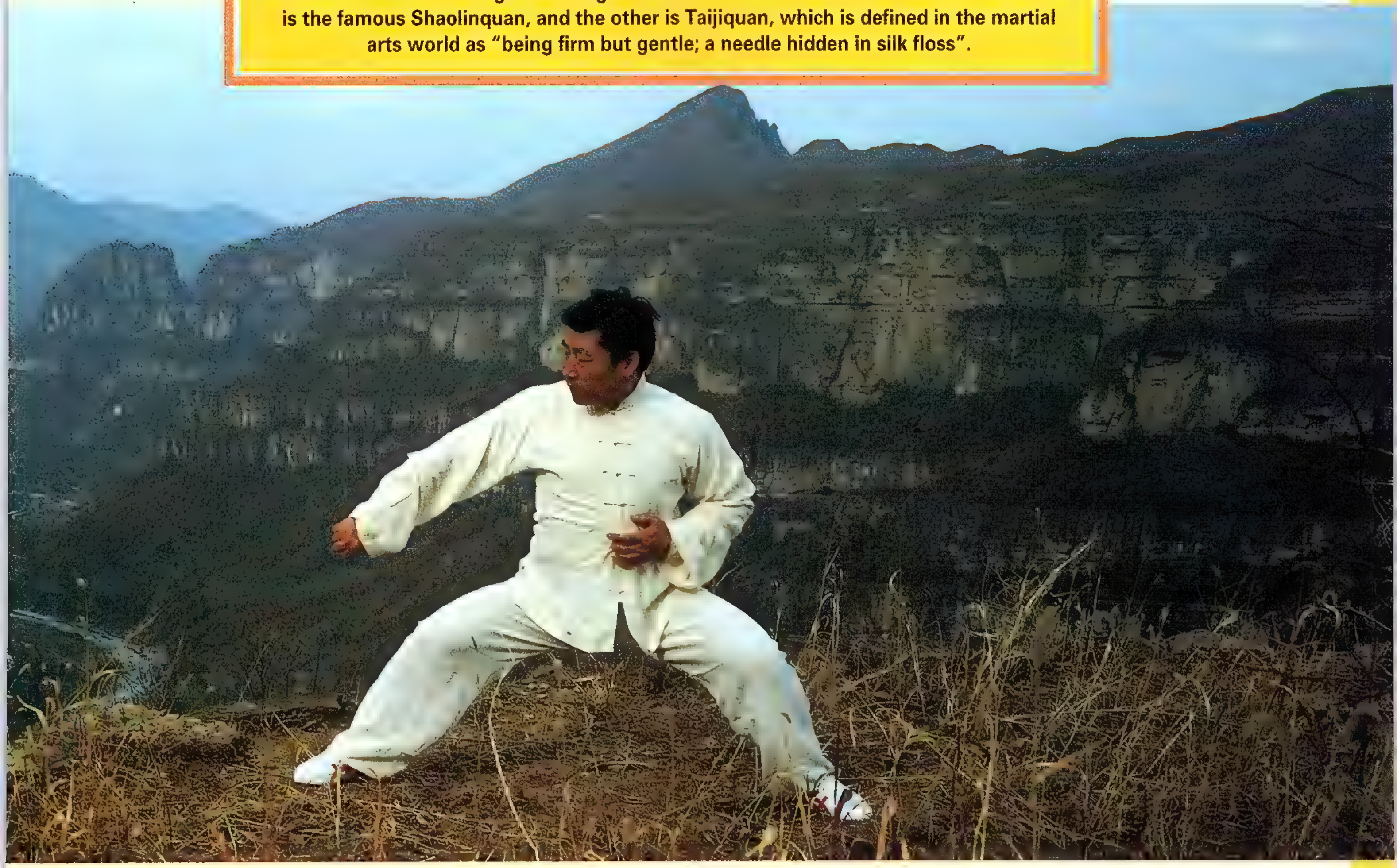
The newly-constructed Taijiquan Martial Arts Centre in Wenxian County is used for international wushu performances and contests (by Shi Bao Xiu).

The Chen Family Glen

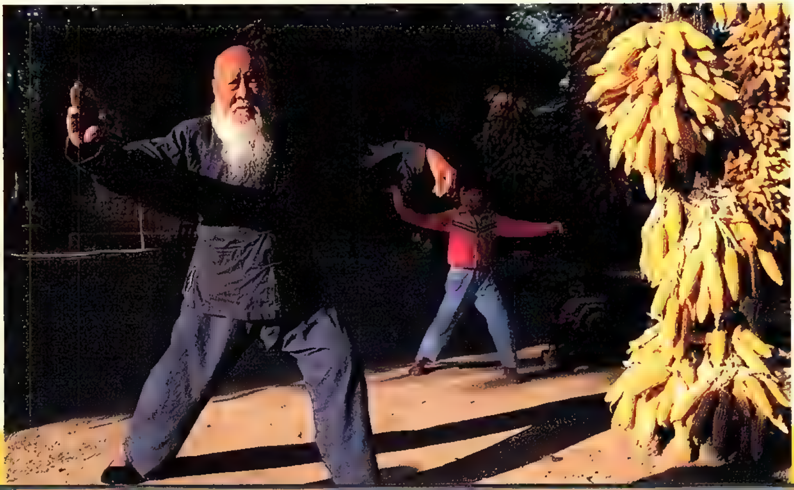
The Home of Taijiquan

TEXT BY WANG YAOJIN & SHI BAO XIU

Any quest for the origin of Chinese martial arts reveals that there are at least two schools of shadow boxing which originated in Henan Province in the Central Plains. One is the famous Shaolinquan, and the other is Taijiquan, which is defined in the martial arts world as "being firm but gentle; a needle hidden in silk floss".



If you ask the white-bearded old man about the secret of his longevity, he will tell you that he owes it to the village's martial arts, handed down from his ancestors (by Wang Yaojin).



Chen Wangting (1600-1680) was an exponent of the philosophy of *yin* and *yang* — the influential school of thought of ancient times. He used the theory of the main and collateral channels of the body as stated in traditional medical science, borrowed the finer points of the Five Birds Movements and Shaolin martial arts, and together with his friends initiated a new style of Taijiquan. With spiralling and circling movements both quick and slow, firm and gentle, it combined keep-fit gymnastics and boxing into one.

Chen Shitong, an 18th generation upholder of the Chen-style Taijiqu and his son, on a visit to France (provided by Chen Shitong).

Practising martial arts beside the fields during a break (by Shi Bao Xiu).

The rebuilt ancestral grave of the Chen family (by Wang Yaojin).

In recent years a martial arts centre, a large gymnasium and a school have been set up in the village for Taijiquan lovers from all parts of the country. In the town of Wenxian County, a much larger *wushu* centre has been established. Martial arts lovers from countries such as Japan, Singapore, Indonesia, the United States, Canada, Australia and Germany have travelled there to learn Taijiquan and exchange experiences. Some enthusiasts from America and Europe even live there for long periods of time, learning from the local Taijiquan masters.

An American teacher in China has taken Chen Qingzhou, a 19th generation descendant of the Chen family, as her coach (by Shi Bao Xiu).

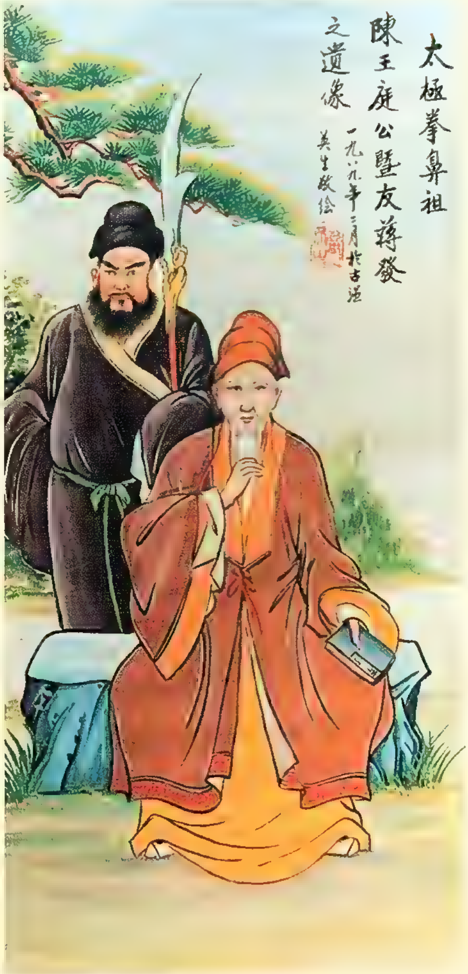
Chen-style Taijiquan has a history of over 600 years. Its founder, Chen Bu, moved from Hongdong County in southern Shanxi to Wenxian County in Henan in 1375 during the Ming Dynasty. He settled in the Qingfeng Ridge on the northern bank of the Yellow River. Later, with the rapid growth of the Chen family, the place became known as the Chen Family Glen.

Chen Bu loved to practise martial arts. He often used his spare time to teach his children his skills, so that all his descendants had an understanding of martial arts. By the time that these skills had been passed down to Chen Wangting, in the ninth generation of the Chen family, a uniqe style of Taijiquan had evolved.

At first, the Chen family did not pass their skills on to outsiders, not even to their in-laws. Later, Chen Changxing (1771-1853), in the 14th generation of the Chen family, broke this tradition and began to impart the Chen-style Taijiquan to outsiders. After this, different schools and different styles of Taijiquan began to appear.

In the early Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) a boxing master set up a ring for a martial arts contest at Kaifeng in Henan. This contest was won by Chen Wangting, "The King of Taijiquan". This infuriated the local authorities, who sent a punitive force against the winner. It transpired that the boxing master, scheming with the local authorities, had already been chosen behind the scenes as the winner. The honest and brave Chen Wangting did not know this and had knocked the boxing master to the ground. As a result he was pursued by government troops and forced to flee to Songshan Mountain.

Portrait of Chen Wangting, a ninth generation ancestor of the Chen family, and his friend Jiang Fa.



太極拳鼻祖
陳王庭公暨友蔣發
之遺像

"The General of Martial Arts", a title given by Emperor Xianfeng of the Qing Dynasty to Chen Jishen, a 15th generation descendant of the Chen family (by Wang Yaojin).

Chen Fake (1898-1957), the 17th generation of the Chen family, and Chen Zhaopi, the 18th generation, represent the Chen-style Taijiquan in modern times. Their skills were consummate and practical, unlike the ones of those who were only fond of flamboyant movements.

In August, 1928, at the invitation of the Le Brothers, the proprietors of the Beijing Tongrentang Shop of Traditional Chinese Medicines, Chen Zhaopi went to teach Taijiquan in Beijing. The Beijing association of the Henan fellow provincials set up a martial ring at Xianwulu for him to engage in exchange bouts with the boxers in the capital city. The contest ran for 17 successive days, but Chen Zhaopi met nobody who could defeat him. This caused a sensation throughout Beijing.

Some time later, Chen Fake went to teach Taijiquan in Nanjing, Xi'an, Luoyang, Kaifeng and other cities, so Taijiquan spread quickly to all parts of the country.

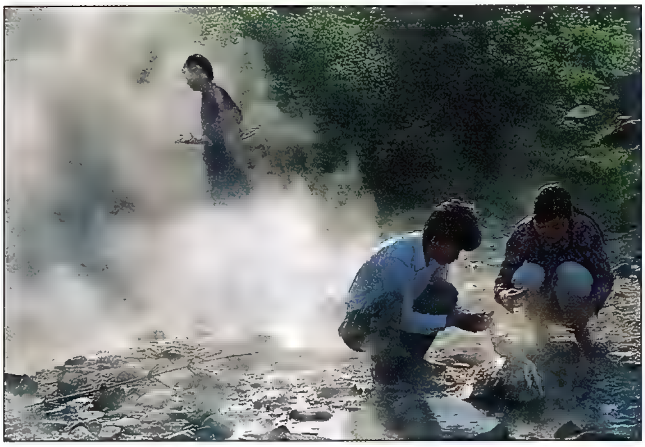
Today, Taijiquan is a regular part of life in the Chen Family Glen. Everyone in the village, men and women alike, are active practitioners. Even small children follow the adults' example day in and day out, stretching their arms and legs first, and then gradually mastering a complete set of skills and tricks.

Local masters from the Chen Family Glen are often invited to go abroad to teach Taijiquan in the countries in Europe, America and Oceania. They include Chen Xiaowang, Wang Xi'an, Zhu Tiancai and Chen Zhenglei, who have been hailed as "The Four Guardian Angels of the Chen-style Taijiquan". Several dozen masters from the Chen Family Glen have been abroad in recent years. Their martial skills help them to make new friends through the exchange of experiences.

Translated by Xiong Zhenru

A Hot-Spring River in the Region of the Hakka

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY SHI BAO XIU



The hot water from the spring has a temperature as high as 90°C, so it is easy to pluck chicken's feathers or boil eggs in the water (by Yang Yankang).

During Qingming Festival (a festival in memory of the dead) last year, we made a tour of the mountainous area of eastern Guangdong Province, where the Hakka people live.

One day, we came to Jiuhe Township in Zijin County. We had covered nearly 200 kilometres that day and everyone was caked in dust, eager to bathe and "recover the original appearance" in clean water. When we got out of the car, we saw people carrying casks of water hurriedly passing us.

There is no water without a river or a spring. We went against the stream of water-carriers towards a stone bridge and were all surprised at the sight: in a white mist from the river under the bridge, figures with only briefs on, bathing in the dusk breeze! The little kids, male and female, with nothing on, were frolicking among the bathers. The sand dune by the river was dotted with clothes of all sizes and in all colours.

Standing on the bridge, I gazed at those free-going people, embraced in the simplicity of nature and immersed in the happiness of life — a good way to get rid of the tiredness from working all day in the fields. All of a sudden the evening breeze brought to our senses a strong smell of sulphur and warm and moist vapour.

It was obvious that it was a river of sulphur springs.

Walking under the bridge, taking off our shoes and socks and rolling up our trousers, we stepped into the river. The warm water flowed pleasantly around our feet.

I asked an old man who was sitting on a rock by the riverside, about to get into the river, "How long have the hot springs been here?" The old man replied with a strong Hakka accent, "The hot springs were not dug out by man. When the ancestors of the Hakka first came here, the springs were already spouting out hot water, so they have a history of at least a thousand years. It gets as busy as a county fair in the evenings when the villagers come after a day's work to wash the sweat and dust off themselves before supper. The women and girls used to come here when it was dark. They enjoyed the hot bathing under the cover of the night, but in recent years they have become too embarrassed to bathe by the river side, so they usually fetch hot water from here and bathe at home."

As the people in Jiuhe bathe in the hot springs from childhood, they are never affected by skin diseases. They have a smooth and shining skin even at an advanced age.

The hot water of the springs flows into the river, which becomes warm. At sunset, people both young and old from the villages nearby immerse themselves in the warm water, enjoying the gift of nature.

Young men and girls carry the hot water home for women to wash their clothes or beautify their skin with (by Yang Yankang).

温泉闾
温室藏经史
泉源育桂蘭

Even the couplets for the Spring Festival are related to the hot-spring river.

The old man was in such high spirits that he caressed his legs and then patted his chest, saying, "Look at the skin on my old body. I have bathed in the hot springs since childhood, and I have no scars on it. Nobody in the villages around here has ever suffered from any skin diseases." In fact, the villagers, young and old, have no blemishes on their smooth skin.

We found lodging in a hotel by the river, enjoyed a hot bath to our heart's content and slept soundly until daybreak. After I got up, I went to the balcony and leaned on the balustrade overlooking the hot-spring river where mist-like white vapour rose up, in which a group of girls were washing clothes. As the water was hot and contained some minerals, it was easy for them to get the clothes clean.

As the air temperature was quite low early in the morning, the three springs on the sand dune in the middle of the river spouted clouds of white vapour. By one spring there was an old woman who was boiling eggs in the hot water. Ten minutes after the eggs were immersed in the water, she rolled them out with a wooden stick and then put them in the cold water of the river. They were already done!

At the edge of another spring, a cook from the hotel was preparing chickens. After he killed them, he held the legs, dipped the whole chicken twice in the spring and then removed the feathers in a matter of seconds.

Later, the villagers told me that in Jiuhe besides the hot-spring river, there were other springs pouring out white vapour, at the foot of the hills and in the rice fields nearby.

Translated by Gu Weizhou

Early in the morning when the temperature is low, the hot-spring river is wrapped in a romantic atmosphere.

HONEY
HONEY

MENTHOL CRYSTALS

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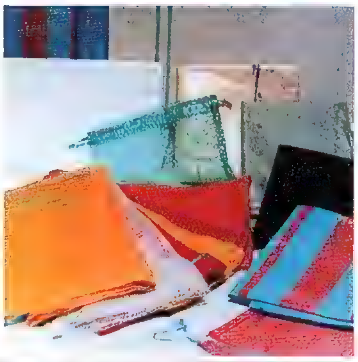

GUANGDONG ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS IMP. & EXP. (GROUP) CORP.

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With 15 export enterprises and 246 million USD of import and export trade value in 1993, Guangdong Animal By-products Import & Export (Group) Corp. is one of ten largest export enterprises in Guangdong Province, ranking No.84 among 500 China's biggest export enterprises. The Group, which has established one company in U.S.A., one company in Germany and three joint-ventures in Hong Kong, builds export business relations throughout the world. The down garments, leather garments, fur, carpets, brushes and casings managed by the group won the international prestige. The group always adheres to the trade principle of mutural benefits, good credit and top quality and develops various export markets.

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Ningbo's Zhuangyuanlou Restaurant and Its Famous Dishes

PHOTOS BY WANG XIONGMING
TEXT BY K. V. KU

Now jointly operated by companies in Ningbo and Hong Kong, Zhuangyuanlou Restaurant dates back over 200 years to the Qing Dynasty. It was badly damaged in 1949 during the war, but moved to its present location on the east fork of Zhongshan Road, in the heart of the city, and has gone from strength to strength.

The restaurant is well-equipped and elegantly decorated, with a façade of traditional Chinese style. In its early days it did not bear its present name. Legend has it that during the reign of Emperor Qianlong (1736-1795) of the Qing Dynasty, two successful provincial candidates were on their way to the capital for the imperial examination. They stopped at what is now the Zhuangyuanlou Restaurant in Ningbo to sample the crystal-sugared mud turtle. They praised the dish and asked the shopkeeper for the name of the dish. Well aware that the clients were going to take the imperial examination, the shopkeeper replied, "Duzhan Aotou", which means that when someone gets the turtle head ("aotou"), he is considered Number One. It just so happened that one of the two men turned out to be the Number One Scholar in the examination. On his return home, he revisited the restaurant and wrote three Chinese characters "Zhuang Yuan Lou" (Number One Scholar Building) for the restaurant, hence its name.

The façade of Zhuangyuanlou Restaurant (by Ma Yiu Chun)

Zhuangyuanlou Restaurant has famous chefs, well known for their Ningbo-style cooking. Of all the dishes they produce, seafood is their speciality. The most traditionally famous ones include:

▶ **Roast Cuttlefish**
The cuttlefish are roasted with pork, to produce a delicate and delicious meal.

▼ **Ningbo-Style Shredded Eel**
Strongly coloured, this dish is soft, tender, fragrant, spicy and rich.

▲ **Square-Shaped Liverwort Meat**
Consisting of streaky pork fried with dried liverwort, this dish, brown and green in colour, is slightly sweet. The meat is glutinous but not greasy, and the liverwort is fragrant and refreshing.

▲ **Yellow Croaker Coated with Liverwort**
Yellow croaker meat is mixed with liverwort, rolled into balls and deep fried. These balls are soft, tender and delicious.

▶ **Yellow Croaker in Potherb Mustard Soup**
This delicate and milky soup is made from yellow croaker and the stems of potherb mustard.

◄ River Eel in Brown Sauce

This nourishing and tasty dish made from river eels is fragrant and slightly sweet, and is a bright yellow colour.

▼ Crystal-Sugared Mud Turtle

Ningbo's most famous dish consists of turtle which is braised until soft. It is then quickly fried with garlic, crystal sugar, spring onions, wine and vinegar, then garnished with spring onions. The dish is soft, glutinous, sour, sweet and salty, all at the same time, and is quite delicious.

▼ Yellow Croaker with Sea Cucumbers

Yellow croakers are common around Ningbo, and are a popular delicacy. When cooked with sea cucumbers, this dish is fragrant and delicious, the tender meat combining with the soft and glutinous cucumber.

▲ Yellow Croaker Wrapped in Bean Milk Skin

Yellow croaker, eggs and bean milk skin are combined to produce this dish, which contrasts the tender fish with the crispy milk skin. It can also be flavoured with salt, vinegar and Chinese prickly ash.

◄ Ham-Stuffed Chicken

As the name implies, this is chicken stuffed with ham. Red, white, brown and green, this dish is a delight to the eye as well as the taste buds.

"China White"

Porcelain from Dehua in Fujian

PHOTOS BY
SHANGGUAN ZHONGHUA
TEXT BY AN GE

Maitreya, *a porcelain carving*

The Maritime Silk Road which started at Quanzhou in Fujian Province was very prosperous during the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279) more than 700 years ago.

Among the chinaware transported from here to Southeast Asia and Europe, as well as the blue and white glazed porcelain produced at Jingdezheng in Jiangxi Province, there was another kind of porcelain called Jianbai Porcelain, made in Dehua, Fujian. The craftsmanship of Dehua's Jianbai Porcelain became very exquisite in the mid-Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), and its production reached considerable volume. But about 200 years ago, during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), because of the ban on maritime trade and the chaos caused by war, Jianbai Porcelain's production temporarily stopped. It was not until the 1960s, through the painstaking efforts of Dehua's ceramics workers, that the production of Jianbai Porcelain resumed. Chinaware produced after the hiatus is as good as that of the Ming Dynasty in quality and is even better than the Ming-dynasty pieces in terms of the crystal-like purity of the glaze.

Dehua County is located in the mountains nearly 100 kilometres to the north of Quanzhou in Fujian. It has fine porcelain clay resources. Jianbai Porcelain has a smooth and solid quality. It is spotlessly white, with the merest hint of a light yellow or pink tint to it, which has earned its sobriquets like "frozen oil and frosted jade", "cream white", "ivory white" and "swansdown white". Some chinaware is red in colour. Because the colour is much like infant's delicate skin, it became known as "baby's red". The finish is both glossy and crystal-like. Its white colour can be further divided into five different types, with a sheen that appears like silk and jade. This delicate kind of porcelain is called "China White" by specialists and is considered one of the best in the world.

In addition to Jianbai Porcelain, Gaobai Porcelain is also produced in Dehua, and it too has a long history and enjoys a high reputation. Gaobai Porcelain is a pure snow-white, to a measure that can reach 88.1 degrees. Gaobai Porcelain tea sets have been chosen as the sets used in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Dehua porcelain carving became very popular as far back as the Song and Yuan (1271-1368) dynasties. It was once chosen by the imperial family of the Yuan Dynasty as a tribute for the emperor to use at court. In the Ming Dynasty, Dehua porcelain carving reached its apogee. The many Buddhist figures such as Guanyin, Tathagata, Bodhidharma and Arhat produced by the famous porcelain carving master He Chaozong from Housuo Village in Dehua County, during the Ming Dynasty, were all elegant pieces of art with an unconventional grace of their own. Many of his porcelain carvings are preserved as treasures even today, in museums both in China and other countries around the world. He Chaozong himself became the founder of the art of Dehua Porcelain Carving and is honoured as "The Porcelain Sage" in the history of Chinese porcelain.

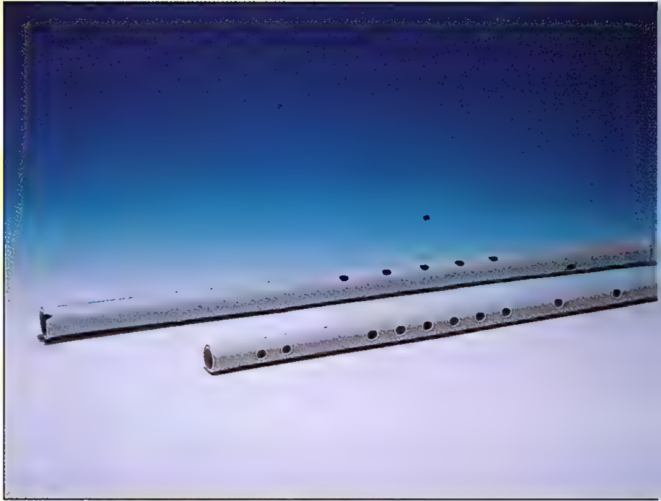
Translated by Xiong Zhenru

Mother and Son After a Bath, *a porcelain carving*

Chinaware of Dehua's Jianbai Porcelain unearthed from a Song-dynasty sunken boat

Porcelain tableware and tea sets from Dehua

Boshan Stove with a dragon head, a porcelain carving



This porcelain flute is a traditional art treasure of Dehua Porcelain. It has an elegant style and a better tone quality than a bamboo flute.

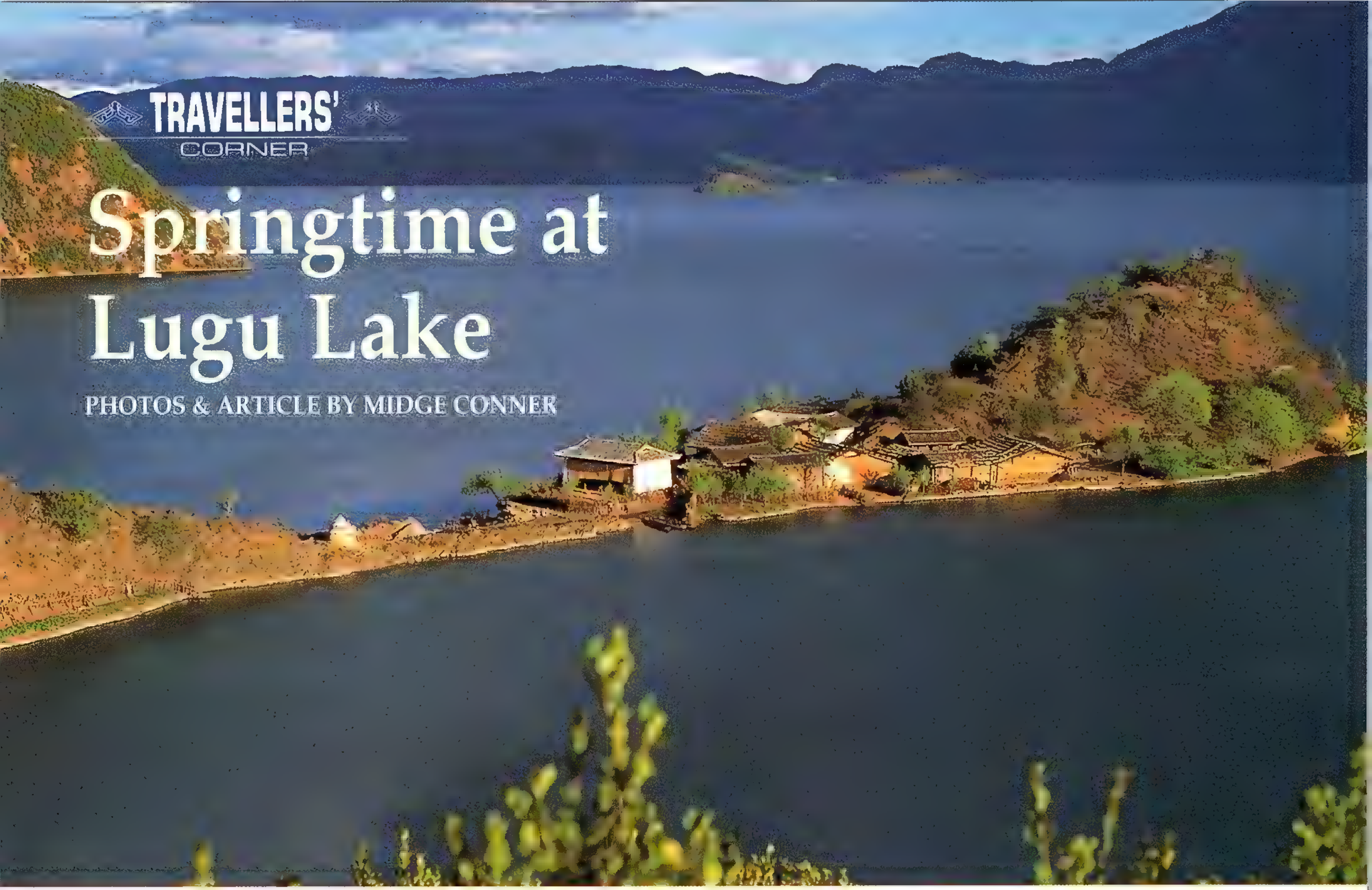
The porcelain carving Fairy Maiden Riding a Tiger

The porcelain carving Yue Fei

TRAVELLERS' CORNER

Springtime at Lugu Lake

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY MIDGE CONNER



Looking down from Shizi Mountain at the clear waters of Lugu Lake and a traditional Mosuo compound on the peninsular

Back in the days when Lugu Lake was closed to foreigners, I would often hear "You have to go to Lake Lugu, you just have to go" from a friend who had managed to hitch there a couple of times. A year after Ninglang County in Yunnan Province opened up to foreigners, I finally made the trip to Lugu Lake. Situated in the north of the province, on the border with Sichuan, Lugu was well worth the wait.

My journey began on the Sichuan side, by taking a long 11-hour bus ride through the mountains from Dekou. We reached the highest pass, at 15,000 feet [around 4.500 metres — the editor], around noon, and the altitude made me feel as if the right side of my head was going to explode. Going from Ninglang down to Lijiang, a mere eight and a half hours, was much easier.

Though I wouldn't rate the road — which turns from dirt to tarmac to cobblestones — as safe, it is certainly a spectacular ride, especially in the spring. In April, everything is in bloom. Apple orchards are full of soft pink fluff, while rhododendron bushes dot the landscape like balls of red fire. There are slopes of pink azalea, and wild flowers growing in profusion along the road sides.

Mosuo men building extra accommodation for tourists in the traditional Mosuo style

At about 6.30 pm we reached Ninglang Yi Autonomous County, where I was dropped off near the government hotel. It is worth spending half-a-day in Ninglang, to visit the market and watch the lovely Nosu women strolling the streets.

The daily bus to Lugu Lake leaves at eight o'clock the next morning, and after an hour's journey, you arrive at Yongning Town. There is a small Tibetan lamasery at Yongning, and an interesting market.

Between Yongning and Lugu Lake, you pass through seven little Nosu villages, with their log houses and hitching posts, and you get brief glimpses of the lake in the distance. Finally, around noon, the bus pulls to a stop at Lugu Lake, an azure gem carved in to the lush green hillside.

Right where the bus stop there are a couple of inns. By the lake, the is the Pumi Guesthouse, and next door was a government hotel with its own dock on the lake. Of the four nights I spent at Lugu, two were in the Pumi Inn, and two at Mosuo homes by the lake (a 20-minute walk).

A typical room has between two and four

beds, a small wooden table and, possibly, a window. Bring your own candles, as Lugu Lake does not have any electricity. The only exception is the small generator that provides the power for the nightly movie. Most families go to bed shortly after dark, or at least when the movie ends. Although the inns have outdoor toilets, very few of the private houses do, and the inhabitants tend to use their back gardens.

Drinking water comes from wells, and washing water from the lake. Meals of rice or potatoes, supplemented with green vegetables, eggs, *doufu*(bean curd), turnips and meat can be purchased at every restaurant or Mosuo home that offers lodging. I tried the local *qingke* barley beer, which is a golden colour with a smoky flavour, and packs quite a kick!

The Mosuo people, traditionally attired, perform songs and dances for the tourists.

Mosuo Yuan is a large inn for travellers, which used to be a Mosuo home but has been converted to sleep 50 people. You can even make reservations here, and there is a banquet hall that can hold around 10 large tables. If you can't find a room, you can just walk along the lake shore and ask at every door you come to. Many of the Mosuo homes now take in travellers, and will have rooms prepared.

Mosuo compounds consist of a solid log building with no windows, built facing the lake. The bottom level houses the animals, and the top is either the family quarters, or is used for storing fodder for the animals. On one side is a one or two-storey building, often with colourfully painted wood carvings decorating the balconies, doors and windows, with bedrooms on the lower floor, and rooms for worship above.

Though there are many minorities, including the Nosu, Pumi, Mongols and Tibetans, living in the vicinity of Lugu Lake, the majority are Mosuo. They are academically classified as a branch of the Naxi, although they themselves deny this, and claim they should have a separate nationality.

People have come to Lugu Lake for many years to observe the unique customs of the Mosuo and their matriarchal society. One of the most noted customs is their sleeping arrangements. Every unmarried woman has a special room in her home, where she can meet her lovers. However, this aspect of the Mosuo culture is gradually changing, as the rooms become more valuable as guest rooms for travellers.

So what does one do at Lugu? If you're after rest and relaxation, clean air, peaceful environment and pure water, Lugu is just the place. My first afternoon at the lake was spent chatting with the locals, observing their daily lives, interspersed with short strolls along the lakeside, taking pictures of the houses, the views and the Mosuo dugout canoes.

Though I rented a tractor to get to the numerous villages strung out along the lake, the journey can easily be made in a day on foot. If I had been there on the first, 15th or 25th of any lunar month, I could have joined the Pumi people as they took their ceremonial walk around the lake. In April it is too cold to swim, but in the summer and early autumn the crystal-clear waters are certainly warm enough. Climbing nearby Shizi Mountain, the tallest mountain in the area and a holy site for all the local minorities took only two and a half hours, and the views from the top were spectacular.

Mosuo women prepare to take tourists for a ride on the lake in a hand-made dugout canoe.

When there are tour groups at Lugu Lake, there are other activities. The Mosuo take a morning canoe ride, dressed in traditional clothing, where they paddle out to the two islands on the lake, one of which has a small temple and a resident lama. In the evenings, there is often a song and dance performance around a bonfire, with the Mosuo again dressed up for the group tourists who have hired them.

As more and more tourist groups discover Lugu, the lifestyle of the Mosuo will gradually disappear, as they tend to the needs of the visitors first. Everyday they arrive in vans and buses, driving down the dirt road by the lake's shore, honking their horns and kicking up clouds of dust.

I fear for the Mosuo people, and can only hope that as more and more people discover Lugu, truly one of the most beautiful and unspoiled places in China, the culture of the Mosuo will not be swallowed up by tourism, and Lugu Lake will remain an unmarred haven of peace on the map of China.

A sweet Mosuo girl in traditional costume

Average Climatic Conditions in Xinjiang, Sichuan and Yunnan

			Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Xinjiang	Altay	Temperature (℃)	-14.7	-13.0	-2.7	8.6	17.0	21.6	21.1	19.0	14.8	8.5	-2.7	-10.4
		Rainfall (mm)	20.8	9.8	31.0	7.4	4.3	4.8	42.3	24.2	5.9	11.2	52.1	15.2
	Bole	Temperature (℃)	-13.6	-11.6	0.9	10.7	17.7	24.1	23.0	21.8	17.2	8.2	-1.3	-8.2
		Rainfall (mm)	6.0	0.8	7.9	38.5	42.9	10.6	20.3	23.7	12.5	30.9	6.6	6.9
	Changji	Temperature (℃)	-13.7	-11.7	0.9	11.1	18.9	25.1	25.0	24.3	18.7	10.0	-0.9	-8.5
		Rainfall (mm)	17.7	4.7	20.7	27.0	10.6	30.3	21.7	3.3	14.8	11.4	25.3	5.7
	Hami	Temperature (℃)	-12.2	-5.8	4.5	13.2	20.2	25.2	27.2	25.9	19.1	9.9	-0.6	-9.0
		Rainfall (mm)	1.7	1.1	1.0	2.6	2.8	6.4	5.9	5.0	3.0	2.1	1.6	1.6
	Karamay	Temperature (℃)	-11.5	-9.9	2.8	12.8	20.6	28.6	26.8	25.8	20.7	11.1	-0.2	-7.5
		Rainfall (mm)	2.2	1.9	8.3	8.4	51.1	1.0	61.5	15.3	16.7	6.9	10.6	4.3
	Shihezi	Temperature (℃)	-13.7	-11.9	1.8	11.8	19.1	25.5	25.2	23.7	18.5	9.5	-0.5	-8.2
		Rainfall (mm)	27.3	5.6	12.8	25.5	31.3	19.6	21.6	4.4	1.5	14.8	40.3	5.6
	Tacheng	Temperature (℃)	-10.0	-8.5	0.5	9.9	17.3	22.9	21.6	20.8	17.4	8.8	-1.3	-6.1
		Rainfall (mm)	25.2	10.8	41.4	12.5	32.0	19.3	82.7	23.1	0.4	45.0	53.5	20.7
	Turpan	Temperature (℃)	-9.5	-2.1	9.3	18.9	25.7	31.0	32.7	30.4	23.3	12.6	1.8	-7.2
		Rainfall (mm)	1.5	0.3	1.4	0.4	0.5	3.3	2.3	3.0	1.0	1.1	0.4	1.4
	Urümqi	Temperature (℃)	-15.2	-12.2	0.7	10.8	18.9	23.4	25.7	23.8	17.4	8.2	-2.6	-12.0
		Rainfall (mm)	5.6	4.0	18.8	22.6	25.1	29.1	16.4	18.9	14.2	17.2	15.2	7.4
	Yining	Temperature (℃)	-8.8	-5.9	3.9	12.2	17.8	23.5	22.5	22.1	18.6	9.5	3.1	-1.9
		Rainfall (mm)	23.0	9.1	37.4	22.8	21.2	5.6	35.7	21.1	4.1	46.1	49.1	7.8
Sichuan	Chengdu	Temperature (℃)	5.6	7.6	12.1	17.0	21.1	23.7	25.8	25.1	21.4	16.7	12.0	7.3
		Rainfall (mm)	5.0	11.4	21.8	51.1	88.3	119.4	228.9	265.8	113.5	47.9	16.5	6.4
	Leshan	Temperature (℃)	7.1	8.8	13.5	18.2	21.6	23.8	26.0	25.6	22.0	17.4	13.2	8.8
		Rainfall (mm)	13.4	26.8	41.1	82.6	137.8	168.9	330.5	311.9	148.1	85.2	36.9	15.3
	Emeishan	Temperature (℃)	-6.0	-4.9	-0.7	3.3	6.1	9.0	11.8	11.2	7.8	3.4	-0.9	-3.8
		Rainfall (mm)	17.0	26.5	54.9	114.9	123.7	238.9	399.8	470.3	234.6	122.3	49.4	20.6
	Xichang	Temperature (℃)	9.5	11.8	16.4	19.5	21.2	21.1	22.6	22.2	19.9	16.6	12.9	10.0
		Rainfall (mm)	4.8	6.4	9.1	26.1	88.9	203.4	215.5	178.1	170.3	84.8	19.9	5.8
Yunnan	Kunming	Temperature (℃)	7.7	9.6	13.0	16.5	19.1	19.5	19.8	19.1	17.5	14.9	11.3	8.2
		Rainfall (mm)	11.6	11.2	15.2	21.1	93.0	183.7	212.3	202.2	119.5	85.0	38.6	13.0
	Zongdian	Temperature (℃)	-3.8	-1.6	1.7	5.2	9.5	12.6	13.2	12.5	11.1	6.5	0.8	-2.9
		Rainfall (mm)	5.4	14.5	19.2	28.1	26.8	86.0	157.5	155.2	72.4	42.4	8.3	4.0

Train Schedules
Lanzhou – Turpan – Urümqi

243 F.T.	143 F.T.	113/112 F.T.	97 Exp.	69 Exp.	53/52 Exp.	Train No. / Station	54/51 Exp.	70 Exp.	98 Exp.	114/111 F.T.	144 F.T.	244 F.T.
	From Xi'an	From Chengdu	From Zhengzhou	From Beijing	From Shanghai		To Shanghai	To Beijing	To Zhengzhou	To Chengdu	To Xi'an	
11:35	13:16	00:23	19:22	02:31	23:53	**Lanzhou**	10:14	08:18	12:50	08:51	17:36	15:27
14:13	15:57	02:55	21:41	04:55	02:10	**Yongdeng**	08:03	06:06	10:37	06:17	15:13	12:46
15:52	17:18	04:40	23:02	06:16	03:31	**Dachaigou**	06:55	04:53	09:32	04:09	14:06	11:30
19:39	21:08	08:44	02:56	10:09	07:10	**Wuwei**	02:51	00:44	05:31	23:44	10:01	06:34
00:19	01:52	13:02	07:19	14:26	11:31	**Shandan**	22:33	20:43	01:25	19:29	05:15	00:50
01:37	03:03	14:20	08:26	15:33	12:40	**Zhangye**	21:25	19:37	00:18	18:20	04:05	23:07
05:40	07:22	18:16	12:16	19:13	16:30	**Jiuquan**	17:15	15:39	20:31	13:55	23:44	19:10
06:25	08:06	19:00	12:50	19:53	17:02	**Jiayuguan**	16:33	15:05	19:58	13:21	23:11	18:30
07:19	09:04	20:01	13:43	20:45	17:55	**Yumen**	15:55	14:26	19:17	12:34	22:26	17:43
09:55	11:46	22:29	16:29	23:14	20:36	**Shulehe**	13:27	11:56	16:37	09:45	19:26	14:44
12:45	14:49	01:07	19:08	01:58	23:16	**Liuyuan**	10:48	09:09	14:05	07:08	16:25	11:33
18:35	20:22	07:34	23:15	07:10	04:14	**Hami**	04:59	03:35	08:24	01:01	10:11	04:04
00:50	02:17	13:02	05:07	12:22	09:32	**Shanshan**	22:03	22:26	03:01	19:31	04:57	21:32
03:58	05:18	15:26	07:37	14:55	12:10	**Turpan**	21:29	19:51	00:30	16:54	02:13	18:56
07:19	—	18:43	10:23	17:41	14:56	**Urümqi**	18:30	16:49	21:31	12:59	—	15:25
	09:13					**Xinyuan**					22:06	
	12:32					**Balguntay**					18:34	
	14:05					**Hejing**					17:15	
	15:44					**Korla**					15:10	

N.B. — Trains No. 143 and 144 depart on alternate days.

Exp. — Express F.T. — Fast through passenger train

Flights to and from Urümqi (1)

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Aksu–Urümqi	1 3 5 7	12:20	14:20	XO9916
Urümqi–Aksu	1 3 5 7	09:30	11:35	XO9915
Alma Ata–Urümqi	1 5	11:05	14:30	XO712
Urümqi–Alma Ata	1 5	10:00	09:35	XO711
Altay–Urümqi	2 4 6	11:50	13:00	XO9920
Urümqi–Altay	2 4 6	09:50	11:00	XO9919
Beijing–Urümqi	3 4 5 6 7 2	13:50 20:05	17:30 23:45	XO9102 XO9602
Urümqi–Beijing	1 3 4 5 6 7 2	09:25 09:25	12:35 12:35	XO9101 XO9601
Guangzhou–Urümqi	2 7 1 2 3 4 5 7 6	09:00 15:35 16:20	14:00 20:40 22:35	CZ3911 XO9302 XO9308
Urümqi–Guangzhou	2 4 5 7 1 3 6 2 7	09:45 09:45 09:45 15:30	14:05 14:05 15:10 20:05	XO9301 XO9301 XO9307 CZ3912
Hotan–Urümqi	1 4 6	12:10	13:40	XO9908
Urümqi–Hotan	1 4 6	09:40	11:10	XO9907
Islamabad–Urümqi	7	11:40	16:40	XO722
Urümqi–Islamabad	7	11:00	10:10	XO721
Karamay–Urümqi	2	11:00	12:00	XO9936
Urümqi–Karamay	2	09:20	10:20	XO9935
Kashi–Urümqi	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	21:30	22:50	XO9902
Urümqi–Kashi	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	18:50	20:30	XO9901
Korla–Urümqi	3 7 1 5	15:15 16:15	16:45 17:45	XO9932 XO9934
Urümqi–Korla	3 7 1 5	09:20 09:20	10:45 10:45	XO9931 XO9933
Kuqa–Urümqi	3 7	13:10	16:45	XO9932
Urümqi–Kuqa	3 7	09:20	12:30	XO9931
Lanzhou–Urümqi	5 2 4 7 3 7	08:10 08:40 10:30 20:30	12:40 13:10 12:50 23:00	WH2913 WH2911 SZ4941 XO9606
Urümqi–Lanzhou	3 7 5 4 7 2	10:15 13:40 13:50 14:10	12:20 17:40 16:20 18:10	XO9605 WH2914 SZ4942 WH2912

Flights to and from Urümqi (2)

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Moscow–Urümqi	5	22:40	10:30*	XO702
Urümqi–Moscow	5	18:40	21:05	XO701
Qiemo–Urümqi	1 5	14:00	17:45	XO9934
Urümqi–Qiemo	1 5	09:20	13:00	XO9933
Shanghai–Urümqi	1 3 6 4	15:35 15:35	20:30 20:30	XO9502 XO9502
Urümqi–Shanghai	1 3 6 4	09:55 09:55	14:05 14:05	XO9501 XO9501
Shenzhen–Urümqi	4 6	17:25	23:55	XO9304
Urümqi–Shenzhen	4 6	10:05	16:05	XO9303
Tashkent–Urümqi	1	11:05	16:25	XO714
Urümqi–Tashkent	1	10:00	09:35	XO713
Xi'an–Urümqi	2 5 2 3 7 1 3 6 1 4 2 5	07:55 18:00 19:10 19:35 20:00 20:05 20:50	11:00 21:10 22:20 22:40 23:10 23:15 24:00	WH2901 XO9382 XO9510 XO9604 XO9306 XO9504 XO9802
Urümqi–Xi'an	2 1 2 5 1 4 3 7 3 6 2 5	09:15 09:35 09:55 10:25 10:25 10:35 12:05	12:05 12:20 12:45 13:20 13:20 13:30 14:40	XO9381 XO9603 XO9801 XO9503 XO9509 XO9305 WH2902
Xining–Urümqi	6	20:30	22:35	XO9308
Urümqi–Xining	6	09:45	11:35	XO9307
Yining–Urümqi	1 3 5 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	12:35 17:45	14:00 19:10	XO9922 XO9918
Urümqi–Yining	1 3 5 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	10:10 15:20	11:45 16:55	XO9921 XO9917

(Valid to March 25, 1995)   *Next day

Xinjiang's Cities and Counties Open to Foreign Tourists

Cities/Prefectures		Open Cities / Counties
Aksu P		Aksu, Baicheng C, Kuqa C, Wensu C, Wushi C, Xayar C, Xinhe C
Bayingolin Mongolian AP		Bohu C, Hoxud C, Luntai C, Korla, Qiemo C, Ruoqiang C, Yanqi Hui AC
Bortala Mongolian AP		Bole
Changji Hui AP		Changji, Fukang C, Hutubi C, Manas C, Miquan C, Mori Kazakh AC, Qitai C
Hami P		Barkol Kazakh AC, Hami, Yiwu C
Hotan P		Hotan, Lop C, Minfeng C, Moyu C, Pishan C, Qira C, Yutian C
Ili Kazak AP	Altay P	Altay, Fuhai C, Fuyun C, Qinghe C
	Ili P	Huocheng C, Yining
	Kuytun	Kuytun
	Tacheng P	Shawan C, Tacheng
Karamay		Karamay
Kashi P		Bachu C, Kashi, Shache C, Shufu C, Shule C, Taxkorgan Tajik AC, Yecheng C, Yengisar C, Zepu C
Kizilsu Kirgiz AP		Artux
Shihezi		Shihezi
Turpan P		Shanshan C, Toksun C, Turpan
Urümqi		Urümqi

Notes: C — County AC — Autonomous County P — Prefecture AP — Autonomous Prefecture

Flights to and from Korla

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Kuqa–Korla	3 7	13:10	14:15	XO9932
Korla–Kuqa	3 7	11:25	12:30	XO9931
Qiemo–Korla	1 5	14:00	15:30	XO9934
Korla–Qiemo	1 5	11:25	13:00	XO9933

(Valid to March 25, 1995)

Major Highways in Northern Xinjiang

Routes	Distance (km)	Main Stations
Burqin — Altay	110	—
Burqin — Fuyun	258	Beitun, Sarbulak
Urümqi — Atlay	778	Kuytun, Beitun, Burqin Fork
Urümqi — Bole	524	Shihezi, Usu
Urümqi — Burqin	686	Kuytun, Hoxtolgay
Urümqi — Dushanzi	252	Shawan, Anjihai
Urümqi — Karamay	389	Dushanzi Fork, Kuytun
Urümqi — Kuytun	252	Hutubi, Shihezi
Urümqi — Mori	268	Fukang, Jimsar, Qitai
Urümqi — Shihezi	151	Changji, Hutubi, Shihezi
Urümqi — Tacheng	626	Kuytun, Toli
Urümqi — Tianchi	97	Tianchi Fork
Urümqi — Yining	693	Usu, Jinghe, Huocheng
Yining — Gongliu	115	Yamat
Yining — Xinyuan	191	—

Flights to and from Chongqing (1)

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Beijing–Chongqing	2	09:40	11:40	CJ6423
	4 5 7	10:15	12:30	3U132
	3	10:45	13:15	SZ4144
	2	11:05	13:20	3U134
	6	11:10	13:15	3U136
	4	11:30	14:00	SZ4144
	6	12:00	14:10	G8 614
	7	16:30	18:50	SZ4644
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	16:40	19:00	SZ4142
	3	17:30	19:40	G8 618
	2	17:40	20:00	G8 612
	1	18:15	20:25	3U138
	2 5	18:35	20:50	SZ4138
Chongqing–Beijing	3	08:05	10:00	SZ4143
	3	08:20	10:05	G8 617
	4	08:30	10:25	SZ4143
	7	08:45	10:40	SZ4643
	6	09:00	10:55	G8 613
	2	12:35	14:25	CJ6424
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	13:30	15:30	SZ4141
	4 5 7	13:45	15:55	3U131
	2	14:20	16:25	3U133
	6	14:20	16:15	3U135
	2	14:40	16:30	G8 611
	1	15:15	17:15	3U137
	2 5	15:30	17:30	SZ4137

Flights to and from Chongqing (2)

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Guangzhou–Chongqing	1	09:25	10:50	H4 217
	4	09:50	11:00	H4 217
	1 2 3 5 6 7	10:15	12:05	3U342
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	10:40	12:25	SZ4320
	7	11:20	12:50	CZ8845
	1 4	11:35	13:05	CZ3413
	4 7	13:55	15:20	SF386
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	15:10	16:55	CZ3450
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	15:25	17:15	SZ4350
	4	16:30	18:10	3U344
	1 4	17:00	18:40	G8 632
	6	17:15	18:50	G8 644
	5 7	18:05	19:40	G8 638
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	18:25	20:10	SZ4342
	2	18:50	20:20	G8 658
	3	19:00	20:30	G8 638
Chongqing–Guangzhou	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	08:15	09:40	SZ4319
	6	08:30	10:10	G8 643
	2	08:40	10:10	G8 657
	1 4	09:00	10:40	G8 631
	4 7	11:30	12:55	SF385
	1 4	11:40	13:00	H4 218
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	13:00	14:35	SZ4349
	1 2 3 5 6 7	13:10	14:45	3U341
	7	13:40	15:10	CZ8846
	4	13:50	15:25	3U343
	1	14:05	15:40	CZ3414
	4	14:20	16:05	CZ3414
	3	15:20	16:55	G8 637
	5 7	15:20	17:00	G8 637
Shanghai–Chongqing	4 7	08:20	10:25	SF547
	1 3 5 6	10:50	13:10	3U572
	2	11:25	13:35	G8 652
	1 2 3 5 6	12:20	14:50	SZ4542
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	17:15	19:35	SZ4544
Chongqing–Shanghai	1 2 3 5 6	08:35	11:30	SZ4541
	2	08:45	10:30	G8 651
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	14:05	16:15	SZ4543
	1 3 5 6	14:15	16:05	3U571
	4 7	16:20	18:25	SF548
Shenzhen–Chongqing	2 4 7	12:00	13:55	3U382
	3 5	12:10	13:50	G8 646
	4 7	12:40	14:25	CZ3455
	1 3 5 6	15:25	17:15	SZ4344
	3 5	16:45	18:55	3U384
	1	17:50	19:20	G8 642
Chongqing–Shenzhen	3 5	09:30	11:10	G8 645
	1 3 5 6	12:40	14:15	SZ4343
	3 5	14:00	15:45	3U383
	2 4 7	14:50	16:50	3U381
	1	15:00	16:40	G8 641
	4 7	15:25	17:10	CZ3456

(Valid to March 25, 1995)

Train Schedules
Urümqi-Kuytun-Alataw Pass

515 O.	Train No. / Station	516 O.
10:57	Urümqi West	20:00
11:34	Changji	19:30
12:30	Hutubi	18:40
13:55	Manas	17:18
14:17	Shihezi	17:01
17:22	Kuytun	14:53
17:46	Usu	14:18
21:13	Jinghe	11:00
22:39	Bole	09:46
23:22	Alataw Pass	09:02

O. — Ordinary passenger train

Flights to and from Chengdu (1)

Route	Days of week		Arr.	Flight No.
Beijing–Chengdu	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	10:05	12:25	SZ4102
	1	12:25	15:05	CJ6467
	2 5	13:15	15:40	SZ4108
	6	14:05	16:35	SZ4106
	1	14:30	17:00	SZ4106
	4	14:40	17:10	SZ4106
	1 2 3 5 6 7	14:50	17:00	CA1407
	7	15:15	17:40	SZ4414
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	16:20	18:40	SZ4104
	3	16:35	19:00	SZ4110
	5	16:50	19:10	SZ4606
	1	16:50	19:10	SZ4606
	4 5 7	17:00	19:20	3U142
	2 6	17:15	19:30	3U144
	1 3	18:25	20:35	3U602
	6	18:35	20:55	SZ4624
Chengdu–Beijing	4 5 7	07:05	09:15	3U141
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	07:10	09:05	SZ4101
	6	07:30	09:25	SZ4623
	2 6	08:15	10:05	3U143
	1	08:40	10:45	SZ4605
	5	09:10	11:05	SZ4605
	1 3	10:00	12:10	3U601
	2 5	10:10	10:10	SZ4107
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	12:15	14:30	CA1406
	7	12:25	14:20	SZ4111
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	13:20	15:20	SZ4103
	1 3 4 6	14:40	16:35	SZ4105
	1	16:05	18:15	CJ6468
	1 2 3 5 6 7	17:50	20:15	CA1408
Guangzhou–Chengdu	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	09:05	11:00	CZ3403
	6	11:35	13:25	G8639
	1 2 4 5 7	12:10	14:00	SZ4308
	3 6	12:25	14:00	SZ4308
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	15:15	17:15	SZ4302
	1 2 3 5 6 7	15:45	17:45	3U332
	4	16:30	19:45	3U344
	1 4	16:35	18:40	CZ3415
	4	16:45	18:30	3U336
	4 7	17:55	19:40	SZ4304
	2 3 5 6	17:55	19:45	SZ4306
	1	19:50	21:35	SZ4310
	1 3 4 6	21:05	22:40	SZ4382
Chengdu–Guangzhou	1 2 3 5 6 7	07:20	09:15	3U331
	4	07:20	09:15	3U335
	2 3 5 6	07:35	09:20	SZ4305
	1	07:35	09:20	SZ4309
	3 6	09:25	11:10	SZ4307
	1 2 4 5 7	09:25	11:10	SZ4307
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	12:10	13:55	CZ3404
	4	12:20	15:25	3U343
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	12:30	14:15	SZ4301
	6	14:25	16:15	G8640
	4 7	15:00	16:45	SZ4303
	1 3 4 6	18:00	20:05	SZ4381
	1 4	19:50	21:35	CZ3416
Shanghai–Chengdu	2 6	19:10	11:55	SF541
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	11:20	13:55	SZ4516
	1 3 5 6	16:55	19:15	3U562
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	17:25	20:00	SZ4502
Chengdu–Shanghai	1 3 5 6	07:15	09:25	3U461
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	08:10	10:20	SZ4515
	2 6	12:55	15:05	SF542
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	14:15	16:25	SZ4501

Flights to and from Chengdu (2)

Route	Days of week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Shenzhen–Chengdu	3 6	08:35	10:40	4G823
	1 6	12:50	14:50	CZ3453
	1 2 3 4 6 7	16:40	18:50	SZ4314
	3 5	16:45	20:35	3U384
	2 4 7	17:55	19:50	3U302
Chengdu–Shenzhen	2 4 7	09:20	11:05	3U301
	3 6	11:45	13:55	4G824
	3 5	12:35	15:45	3U383
	1 2 3 4 6 7	14:00	15:40	SZ4313
	1 6	15:50	17:40	CZ3454
Singapore–Chengdu	2 6	14:00	18:20	SZ434
Chengdu–Singapore	2 6	08:00	12:40	SZ433

(Valid to March 25, 1995)

Flights to and from Kunming

Route	Days of week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Beijing–Kunming	3	07:55	11:10	CA1401
	3 6	08:10	12:25	X2101
	2 4 6	18:15	11:40	CA1403
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	11:20	14:15	3Q4122
	1 2 3 4 5 7	18:10	21:05	3Q4182
	6	18:45	21:50	3Q4184
Kunming–Beijing	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	07:40	10:15	3Q4121
	2 4 6	12:30	15:10	CA1404
	3 6	13:25	18:10	X2102
	1 2 3 4 5 7	14:40	17:05	3Q4181
	6	14:40	17:45	3Q4183
	3	17:30	20:10	CA1402
Shanghai–Kunming	1 3 5	09:15	11:55	SF451
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	10:45	13:40	3Q4542
	1 4	11:00	14:05	MU5405
	4 7	19:25	22:20	3Q4546
Kunming–Shanghai	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	07:35	09:55	3Q4541
	1 3 5	12:50	15:30	SF452
	1 4	15:10	17:15	MU5406
	4 7	16:15	18:30	3Q4545
Shenzhen–Kunming	1 5	09:05	12:00	CZ3459
	3 6	11:40	13:20	SZ4374
	3 6	14:50	16:20	4G833
	2 7	19:35	21:15	3Q4396
	4 5	19:50	21:30	3Q4394
Kunming–Shenzhen	3 6	09:00	10:40	SZ4373
	1 5	13:00	15:30	CZ3460
	2 7	17:00	18:30	3Q4395
	4 5	17:20	18:50	3Q4393
	3 6	17:25	18:50	4G834
HongKong–Kunming	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	13:20	15:25	CZ342
Kunming–HongKong	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	10:45	12:30	CZ341
Singapore–Kunming	3 6	12:35	16:20	3Q464
Kunming–Singapore	3 6	08:00	11:35	3Q463
Vientiane–Kunming	4	13:10	15:30	CZ394
Kunming–Vientiane	4	11:50	12:10	CZ393

(Valid to March 25, 1995)

Train Schedules
Chengdu – Dazu – Chongqing

237 F.T.	221/223 F.T.	95 E.T.	83/86 Exp.	Train No. / Station	84/85 Exp.	96 E.T.	222/224 F.T.	238 F.T.
17:00	18:26	22:44	09:34	Chengdu	17:53	07:11	08:50	18:53
18:34	21:01	-	11:09	Jianyang	16:23	-	07:16	17:23
19:26	20:53	-	11:59	Ziyang	15:24	-	06:30	16:27
21:28	23:00	02:33	14:18	Neijiang	13:25	03:34	04:34	14:18
22:19	23:54	-	15:06	Longchang	12:26	-	03:40	13:24
23:35	01:10	-	16:17	Dazu	11:24	-	02:14	12:11
00:24	02:18	-	17:05	Yongchuan	10:40	-	01:30	11:27
04:15	05:53	07:44	20:35	Chongqing	06:41	22:00	21:07	07:48

Exp. – Express F.T. – Fast through passenger train E.T. – Express through passenger train

Major Hotels in Xinjiang, Sichuan and Yunnan

Altay, Xinjiang

Biancheng Hotel
[illegible]
4 Jiefang Road, Altay, Xinjiang
Tel: 22925
GM: Fu Guoyao
Facilities: Restaurants, coffee shop, ballroom, karaoke, beauty salon

Bole, Xinjiang

Ebinur Lake Hotel
[illegible]
2 Minzhu Road, Bole, Xinjiang
Tel: 22076
GM: Chen Shide
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, bar, ballroom, beauty salon, business centre

Changji, Xinjiang

Changji Prefecture Hotel
[illegible]
Yan'an Road North, Changji, Xinjiang 831100
Tel: (0994) 342153, 342034
GM: Jie Jianxin
Facilities: Restaurants, amusement centre, shopping arcade

Fukang, Xinjiang

Tianchi Hotel
天池賓館
Tianchi Scenic Area, Fukang, Xinjiang 831500
Tel: 222334
Located in the centre of the Heavenly Lake area
Villas and yurts accommodating about 100 guests
Facilities: Restaurants, teahouse, boat cruises

Karamay, Xinjiang

Taiyangcheng Hotel
太陽城賓館
28 Youjiang Road, Karamay, Xinjiang
Tel: 22454, 883075
GM: Zhu Rongping
Located in the city centre
Facilities: Restaurants, ballroom, conference rooms

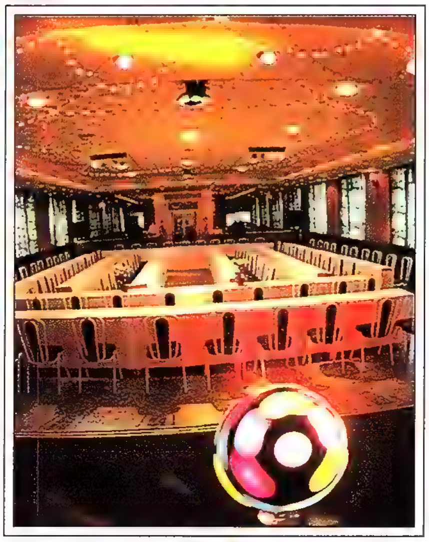
Urümqi, Xinjiang

Baodi Hotel
[illegible]
3 Kalamay Road East, Urumqi, Xinjiang 830000
Tel: 443071, 414068 Fax: (0991) 443071
GM: Wang Songlin
Opened July 1988
215 beds
Located in the city centre
Facilities: Restaurants, conference rooms, business centre, ballroom, bar, karaoke, beauty salon, shopping arcade

Bianjiang Hotel
[illegible]
32 Yan'an Road, Urumqi, Xinjiang 830001
Tel: (0991) 262981, 262982-660/661
GM: Yang Yongxue
1,040 beds
Facilities: Restaurants, conference rooms, karaoke, ballroom, clinic, shopping arcade

Bogeda (Boga!) Hotel
[illegible]
10 Guangming Road, Urumqi, Xinjiang 830002
Tel: (0991) 223910 Fax: 215769
GM: Li Chenglin
146 rooms
Located 20 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurants, banquet hall, bar, karaoke, shopping arcade, beauty salon

Dongfeng Hotel
[illegible]



36 Beijing Road North, Urumqi, Xinjiang 830011
Tel: 338027 Fax: 330300
Opened 1986
120 rooms and suites
Located 4 km from airport
Facilities: Restaurants offering Sichuan, Beijing, Guangdong and Muslim dishes, banquet hall, conference rooms, bar, shopping arcade, multi-function room

Holiday Inn Urumqi
新疆假日大酒店

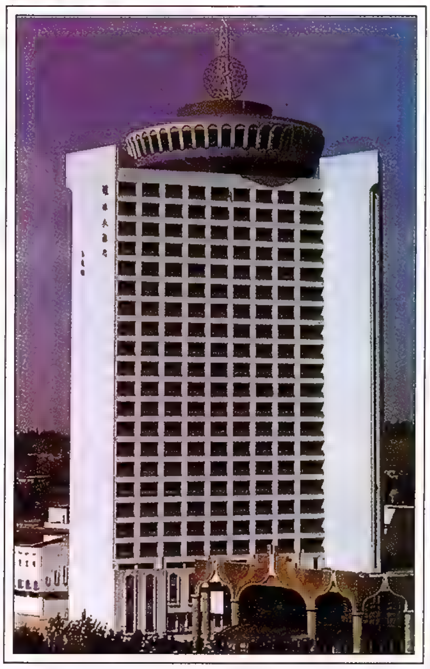
Holiday Inn
Urumqi

168 Xinhua Road North, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830002
Tel: (0991) 218788 Telex: 79161 XIGHP CN
Fax: (0991) 217422
GM: Shi Taile
Opened 8 May 1993
383 rooms and suites
Located in the heart of the city, 20 km from airport, 6 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, conference rooms, business centre, bar, disco, gym, steambath, sauna, massage, hot and cold jacuzzi, billiard room, clinic, karaoke, facilities for the handicapped

Hongshan Hotel
[illegible]
108 Xinhua Road North, Urumqi, Xinjiang 830002
Tel: 224232
GM: Cui Shouliang
Opened 1971
143 rooms
Facilities: Chinese restaurants, bar, coffee shop, cafe, karaoke, beauty salon, multi-function room, massage

Hotel of Urumqi Mansion
[illegible]
131 Renmin Road, Urumqi, Xinjiang 830002
Tel: 222252 Fax: 216078
GM: Dong Faxun
Opened February 1992
168 rooms
Facilities: Restaurants, conference rooms, dance hall, karaoke, beauty salon

Hotel of the World Plaza
[illegible]



2 Beijing Road South, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830011
Tel: 336300, 336340
Fax: 336399, 339007
Opened August 1992
398 rooms and suites
Located 15 km from airport, 10 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet halls, teahouse, cafe, bar, dance hall, karaoke, disco, beauty salon, clinic, sauna, gym, billiard room, indoor swimming pool, shopping arcade, babysitting service

Huangjin Hotel
黃金賓館
6 Youhao Road North, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830000
Tel: 416071 Fax: 442362
GM: He Lingtai
Opened 1987
110 rooms
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, beauty salon, shopping arcade

International Department House
國際公寓
Henan Road West, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830011
Tel: 338471
GM: Zhao Huanwen
Opened 18 May 1993
127 rooms and suites
Located 7 km from airport, 16 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, bar, cafe, teahouse, billiard room, karaoke, gym

Islam Grand Hotel
伊斯蘭大飯店
22 Zhongshan Road, Urumqi, Xinjiang 830002
Tel: 217931 Fax: 211513
GM: Zhao Shukun
77 rooms and suites
Located in the city centre
Facilities: Chinese, Western and Japanese restaurants, conference rooms, business centre, bar, karaoke, shopping arcade, nightclub

Jianguo Hotel
建國飯店

26 Jianguo Road, Urumqi, Xinjiang 830002
Tel: 227855
GM: Ou Rong
120 rooms and suites
Facilities: Restaurants offering Sichuan, Guangdong, Shandong and Xinjiang dishes, conference room, ballroom, beauty salon, shopping arcade, nightclub

Kunlun Hotel
昆侖賓館
38 Youhao Road North, Urumqi, Xinjiang 830000
Tel: 440411 Telex: 79131 KLHTL CN
GM: An Jinming
Opened 1959
428 rooms and suites
Located 16 km from airport, 7 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, Muslim banquet rooms, conference rooms, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, ballroom, shopping arcade

Laiyuan Hotel
徠遠賓館
3 Jianshe Road, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830002
Tel: 228368 Fax: 225109
GM: Wang Bao Guo
120 rooms and suites
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, business centre, bar, karaoke, beauty salon, gym, clinic, shopping arcade

Maliyan Hotel
瑪[illegible]賓館
57 Zhongshan Road, Urumqi, Xinjiang 830002
Tel: 214881 Fax: 212220
GM: Xi Dongchang
Opened 1993
72 rooms and suites
Located downtown
Facilities: Chinese restaurants, conference rooms, multi-function room, ballroom, karaoke

Overseas Chinese Hotel
華僑賓館
51 Xinhua Road South, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830001
Tel: (0991) 260793, 260845, 260846
Telex: 79164 BOOTH CN
Fax: (0991) 260622
GM: Song Qipei
280 rooms
East Building opened September 1955, South Building September 1985
Located 27 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, self-service Muslim restaurant, conference rooms, business centre, music hall, bar, karaoke, beauty salon, clinic

Yingbin Hotel
迎賓館
60 Yanan Road, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830001

Tel: 261060
GM: Cao Kewen
Opened 1956
135 rooms and suites
Located 25 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, meeting rooms, multi-function rooms

Yili Grand Hotel
伊犁大酒店
80 Changjiang Road, Urumqi, Xinjiang 830000
Tel: 553208
GM: Li Wei
Opened February 1993
118 rooms
Located 20 km from airport, 1 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurants offering Sichuan, Guangdong and Muslim dishes, conference rooms, multi-function room, dance hall, karaoke

Zhunge'er (Junggar) Hotel
准噶爾賓館
5 Beijing Road South, Urumqi, Xinjiang 830011
Tel: 413383 Fax: 443242
GM: Yang Songjin
Opened 1986
77 rooms and suites
Located 10 km from airport, 15 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurants, conference rooms, coffee shop, dance hall, shopping arcade

Yining, Xinjiang

Yining Flower City Hotel
伊寧花城賓館
Alley 7, Ahemaitijiang Street, Yining, Xinjiang
Tel: 22911 Ext. 214

Chengdu, Sichuan

Chengdu Grand Hotel
成都大酒店
29 Section 2, Renmin Road North, Chengdu, Sichuan 610081
Tel: 3333888 Telex: 600349 CHDGH CN
Fax: 336818
GM: Wang Zize
Opened 8 October 1990
456 rooms and 12 suites
Located 20 km from airport, 200 m from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, business centre, karaoke, dance hall, beauty salon, gym, shopping arcade, massage, bar

Chengdu Hotel
成都飯店
East Section of Shudu Road, Chengdu, Sichuan 610066
Tel: 4444112, 4448888
Telex: 60164 CDHOT CN, 600077 CHMKT CN
Fax: 441603
Opened 18 May 1984
310 rooms
Located 15 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, international conference hall, business centre, bar, swimming pool, tennis court, billiard room, gym, sauna, massage, clinic, karaoke, disco, coffee shop, function rooms

Chengdu Jiaotong (Traffic) Hotel
成都交通飯店
77 Linjiang Road, Xinnanmen, Chengdu, Sichuan 610041
Tel: 5551017, 5554267, 5554962 Fax: 582777
GM: Yan Wenlin
Opened 22 March 1986
130 rooms
Located 300 m from city centre, 15 km from airport, 6 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, shopping arcade, music bar, clinic, massage, beauty salon, dance hall, karaoke

Jinhe Grand Hotel
成都金河大酒店

18 Jinhe Street, Chengdu, Sichuan 610031
Tel: 6642888 Telex: 600341 JHHTL CN
Fax: (028)632037
GM: Long Guanyin
Opened 15 April 1991
400 rooms and 8 suites
Located 18 km from airport, 7 km from railway station
Facilities: Revolving restaurant, banquet hall, conference rooms, bar, karaoke, disco, dance hall, business centre, billiard room

Jinjiang Hotel
四川錦江賓館
36 Section 2, Renmin Road South, Chengdu, Sichuan 610012
Tel: 5582222 Telex: 60109 JJH CN
Fax: 581849, 582348
GM: Lou Li Xian
Opened 1962
519 rooms and 57 suites
Located 17 km from airport, 8 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurants, business centre, swimming pool, karaoke, bar, sauna, beauty salon, disco, tennis court

Minshan Hotel
岷山飯店

17 Section 2, Renmin Road South, Chengdu, Sichuan 610021
Tel: 5583333, 5551384
Telex: 60247 MSH CN, 600033 MSNHL CN
Fax: 582154
Opened 18 January 1988
337 rooms and suites
Located in downtown Chengdu, 16 km from airport, 8 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet rooms, business centre, shopping centre, dance room, karaoke, gym, sauna, billiard room, beauty salon, swimming pool, tennis court, coffee shop, bar

Tibet Hotel

[illegible]

10 Renmin Road North, Chengdu, Sichuan 610081
Tel: 3334001 Telex: 60390 THC CN Fax: 333526
436 rooms and suites
Located 20 km from airport, 1 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurants, business centre, disco, beauty salon, karaoke, function rooms, coffee shop

Zhufeng Hotel Chengdu

[illegible]

107 Shangxi Shuncheng Street, Chengdu, Sichuan 610015
Tel: 6662441 Telex: 600023 ZHGHO CN
Fax: 671717
Opened 15 March 1988
270 rooms
Located in the city centre, 20 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese restaurants, banquet hall, business centre, bar, karaoke, disco, billiard room, shopping arcade, beauty salon

Chongqing, Sichuan

Chongqing Guesthouse

[illegible]

235 Minsheng Road, Chongqing, Sichuan 630010
Tel: (0811) 345888 Telex: 62122 CQGH CN
Fax: (0811) 330643
GM: Yang Huai
Opened 18 July 1985
265 rooms
Located in downtown Chongqing, 30 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Korean restaurants, business centre, conference rooms, health club, swimming pool, sauna, massage, nightclub, karaoke, dance room, bar, billiard room, mini-golf, beauty salon, shopping arcade

Holiday Inn Yangtze Chongqing

[illegible]

15 Nanping Beilu, Chongqing, Sichuan 630060
Tel: 203380 Telex: 62220 HIYCQ CN
Fax: 200884
GM: Peter Pollmeier
Opened 24 February 1989
379 rooms and suites
Located 5 km from city centre, 30 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese restaurant, business centre, disco, karaoke, bar, ballroom (300 persons), outdoor swimming pool, health club, sauna, massage, billiard room, shopping arcade, beauty salon, gym

Huixianlou Hotel

重慶會仙樓賓館

186 Minzu Road., Central District, Chongqing, Sichuan 630010
Tel: 344135, 345027
Gm: Chen Nan
Opened 20 September 1982
159 rooms
Located in the heart of the city, 35 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurant, conference room, business centre, karaoke, bar, dance hall, clinic, beauty salon

Kunming, Yunnan

Begonia (Haitang) Hotel

[illegible]

Huancheng Road East, Kunming, Yunnan 650000
Tel: 3137573
GM: Wang Xiuying
231 rooms and suites
Located next to the eastern bus station, 9 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurant, banquet hall, shopping arcade, indoor swimming pool

Golden Dragon Hotel

[illegible]

575 Beijing Road, Kunming, Yunnan 650011
Tel: 3133104 Telex: 64060 GDHKM CN
Fax: 3131082
GM: Mai Qiliang
Opened January 1988
302 rooms and suites
Located 4 km from airport, 1 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurants offering Western, Japanese, Guangdong and Yunnan dishes, conference/banquet rooms, business centre, indoor swimming pool, gym, bar, karaoke, disco, tennis court, clinic

Golden Flower Hotel

[illegible]

143 Huancheng Road West, Kunming, Yunnan 650031
Tel: 3132118
152 rooms and 17 suites
Located 20 km from airport, 10 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, ballroom, bar

Golden Peacock Hotel

[illegible]

Daguan Park, Kunming, Yunnan 650032
Tel: 414334 Telex: 64017 GPHKM CN
Fax: 4141087
GM: An Rui Chuan
Opened June 1988
104 rooms
Located 10 km from airport, 6 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurant, banquet hall, conference rooms, business centre, bar, billiard room, swimming pool, tennis courts, dance hall, karaoke

Green Lake Hotel

[illegible]

6 Cuihu (Green Lake) Road South, Kunming, Yunnan 650031
Tel: 5158888 Telex: 64073 GLHTL CN
Fax: 5153286
GM: Rene Hardmeier
Opened 1965 (New Wing in 1993)
478 rooms and suites
Located in city centre, 12 km from airport, 7 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurants, banquet facilities, beauty salon, massage, tennis courts, business centre, clinic, shopping arcade

King World Hotel

[illegible]

28 Beijing Road South, Kunming, Yunnan 650011
Tel: (0871) 3138888 Telex: 64143 KIWH CN
Fax: (0871) 3138656, 3131910
GM: Zhang Xianbing
Opened 15 February 1992
320 rooms and suites
Located 5 km from airport, 400 m from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, revolving restaurant, coffee shop, bar, business centre, shopping arcade, banquet hall, disco, function room, massage, beauty salon, karaoke

Kunming Camellia Hotel

昆明茶花賓館

154 Dongfeng Road East, Kunming, Yunnan 650041
Tel: 3163000, 3162918 Telex: 64135 KMCH CN
GM: Li Datong
Opened February 1986
140 rooms
Located 7 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese restaurant, business centre, shopping arcade, dance hall, bar

Kunming Hotel

[illegible]

145 Dongfeng Road East, Kunming, Yunnan 650061
Tel: 3162063, 3162171 Telex: 64058 KMHTL CN
Fax: 3163784
GM: Duan Fu Guang
Opened 1958
400 rooms and suites
Located 5 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet rooms, conference rooms, coffee shop, dance hall, gym, business centre, karaoke, disco, sauna, beauty salon, indoor swimming pool, shopping arcade, billiard room

Orchid Hotel

[illegible]

Huancheng Road South, Kunming, Yunnan
Tel: 3135553 Fax: 3133155
GM: Ma Lizhou
Opened 28 January 1992
252 rooms
Located 15 min from airport, 3 min from railway station
Facilities: Restaurants, karaoke, bar, dance hall, beauty salon

Yunnan Hotel

雲南飯店

83 Dongfeng Road West, Kunming, Yunnan
Tel: 3132419
GM: Liu Jiaxiang
Opened 1962
382 rooms
Located 15 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurants, conference room, shops, beauty salon, clinic

BUSINESS TIPS

Porcelain Production in Fujian

Dehua County in eastern China's Fujian Province is revitalizing its pottery and porcelain industry, by introducing new technology and scientific innovations. During the past three years, the county has carried out 55 projects to revitalize the porcelain industry; 46 have since been completed. To make the industry more competitive, the county is providing more up-to-date information, more encouragement for its entrepreneurs to seek markets abroad, introducing foreign expertise and stressing the use of rare-earth elements in porcelain production.

In the last few years, the county has introduced advanced foreign production lines from Japan and Germany, which has greatly improved production in terms of both quantity and quality. The county's pottery and porcelain products are sold in over 90 countries around the world.

Italian Bank for Beijing

The Banco Ambrosiano Veneto, one of the largest privately-owned banks in Italy, is about to make a significant contribution to economic co-operation between China and Italy. It has recently opened a representative office in Beijing. The establishment of the Beijing office demonstrates the importance the bank places on business in the Asia-Pacific region.

The bank's Beijing office is intended to help its small and medium-sized enterprise customers find trading and investment partners in China, and to promote co-operation with its Chinese correspondent banks. These include four specialized banks, Everbright Bank, Citic Industrial Bank, Bank of Communications and Investment Bank.

Shanghai Still Attractive

The number of large companies with a volume of sales of over 100 million yuan which are located in Shanghai has grown to over 60. Two years ago, that number was only 20. This success in attracting international firms has been attributed to the extensive commercial reforms of the city. Further internationally-accepted regulatory practices will be applied to large and medium-sized firms in the next few years, making it still more attractive to foreign companies.

Shanghai's reforms actively coordinate the activities of firms with substantial assets and the ongoing quest to pool capital. This has enabled commercial bodies to enter the international market, which has meant that a number of commercial bodies have set up overseas branches or outlets.

Airlines Fair in March

Beijing is to host an international airlines fair next March. The International Aviation Tourism Services and Relative Articles Fair '95 will run between March 17 to 21, and will give domestic and foreign airlines an opportunity to showcase their services. Hotels and tourist agencies will also display their services. The fair, to be held bi-annually, is aimed at bringing China's aviation industry up to international standards. Organizers plan to try and attract foreign airlines that are known for their high standards.

Yunnan Opens Its Doors

Yunnan Province, in the southwest of China, is to open itself up to the outside world. The province, which is famous for its beautiful scenery and wildlife, is China's passageway to South and Southeast Asia, bordering Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar. The province is rich in natural resources and hydropower. A complete transportation network of air, road and rail has been built up, and high-grade highways connecting it with Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar are currently under construction. Telecommunications have also been upgraded, with over 600,000 programme-controlled telephone lines now in operation, and cellular telephones about to be introduced.

The province has also developed preferential policies to attract investors. Government departments are required to provide quick and efficient services to investors, and a service centre for overseas investment has been set up. Overseas investment has expanded to include metallurgy, machinery, electronics, real estate, chemicals and processing industries. Yunnan also welcomes overseas investors to aid the transformation of large and medium-sized State enterprises.

Accounting Firm Opens First Office

The world-famous firm of accountants, Moore Stephens, has opened its first office on the mainland. Approved by the Ministry of Finance, the branch is in Fuzhou, capital of Fujian Province. It is an important step for the London-based firm's expansion into the Chinese market.

The move follows China's commitment to open its financial service market to foreign competition. So far, 10 foreign accounting firms, including Moore Stephens, have opened representative offices in China.

Nanjing Seeking Foreign Investment

Nanjing, the capital of Jiangsu Province in eastern China, is looking for foreign investment in its key infrastructure sector. Projects include the Nanjing subway, a downtown road and a new bridge over the Yangtse River. It is the first time the city has invited foreign investment for the road and bridge projects.

Priority Given to Foreign Consortiums

The southern province of Guangdong is to give priority to Hong Kong and foreign firms in order to attract foreign investment. Bigger shares of the local market and more shareholding power are features of the new moves.

Foreign firms and consortiums can independently operate and hold majority shares in local industries, except for basic and monopoly industries, which remain under state control. Giving a larger share of the market to foreign concerns has increased investment in the past, especially in areas such as technology. Shenzhen, a special economic zone, currently has 55 high-tech companies.

Economic Zone

The Chinese central government has approved the establishment of the Beijing Economic and Technology Development Zone. The zone will enjoy the same preferential policies as the open coastal cities, and is aimed at attracting foreign investment to develop high-tech industrial and scientific projects, in a bid to expand Beijing's major enterprises and foreign trade.

NEWS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

Ancient State Discovered

Studies of the ancient state of Qiuci, once a centre of Buddhist culture in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, have been judged a success. Chinese archaeologists have proved conclusively that Qiuci (present-day Kuqa) existed between the Western Zhou Dynasty (c. 11th century-770 B.C.) to the early Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.) .

The findings were based on the investigation of a large number of tombs in Baicheng County in southern Xinjiang. There are currently 22 researchers involved in work upon the ancient state, and more than 10 books have been written on the subject. According to cultural officials, the study of the ancient state has meant that China has made great strides in the study of ancient history, archaeology and the language of Qiuci.

Pagoda Yields Ancient Relics

More than 600 rare relics, including Buddhist scriptures, silks, ceramics, lacquerware and herbal medicines have been found in an ancient pagoda in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

The relics, thought to have been stored by an empress of the Liao Dynasty (916-1125), are well preserved and have great artistic value, according to the archaeologists.

Found at the top of a 70-metre-high pagoda in the eastern Bairin Right League, the Buddhist scriptures and the silk fabric appear almost new, with colours and designs still very clear. The silks are printed with designs including dragons, vulture, clouds and human figures.

TOURIST INFORMATION

New Hotel in Harbin

Holiday Inn Worldwide has signed an agreement with Heilongjiang Wanda Corporation in the northeast of China, to manage the new Holiday Inn City Centre Harbin. The new hotel is scheduled to open early in 1995. Holiday Inn currently operate 18 hotels in China, but plan to have nearly 100 by the turn of the century.

Hainan Health Centre

Hainan Province, off the south coast of China, has increased the pace of development of its new health products industry centre, the largest in the country. The China Rehabilitation Centre will have four main sites: the chief one is in the capital, Haikou, and the other three are in Sanya in the south, and Tunchang in the centre.

Projects include a science and technology garden, a health food industry centre, a sanatorium and a hot spring rehabilitation centre. The project is scheduled to be completed in 1998. The first part to open, the South China Science and Technology Garden in Tunchang County, will cover 53 hectares and will open by the end of 1995. It will concentrate on developing southern Chinese medicines and health food, soft drinks and other health products.

Tourist Development in Pudong

Shanghai's Pudong area now boasts more than just industry — it is now a destination for tourists, and it is giving them a decidedly investment-flavoured view of the area. Travel services in the Pudong dealt with over 130,000 visitors so far this year, including 8,000 from overseas.

The East Shanghai Tourism Corporation organizes activities including "A Trip to Pudong's Scenic Spots and Historic Sites", "A One-Day Tour to Pudong's Large Infrastructure Projects" and "One-Day Business Investigation in Pudong".

Modern tourist facilities are also being built, including the International Country Club and the Pearl Amusement Park in the Huaxia Tourism Development Zone.

CULTURAL HAPPENING

Auspicious Start for Buddha Icon

The night before the foundation stone was due to be laid for the world's tallest Buddhist statue, it was cold and rainy. However, the next morning, the skies cleared and the sun shone during the ceremony, only to darken again once it was over. Local people attributed the spell of good weather to the power of Lord Buddha.

The colossal statue, 88 metres from head to pedestal, is being built on the shores of Lake Taihu in Jiangsu Province east of Shanghai. The project is expected to draw the faithful and the curious when it is completed in late 1996. Using over 400 tons of bronze, the statue portrays a standing Sakyamuni, smiling slightly, with his right hand raised to symbolized to signify the departure from suffering and the left hand lowered, to signify the blessing of happiness. Inside the statue will be a sutra hall and a prayer hall.

AIRLINE UPDATES

Xinjiang Expands Air Links

Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region has built air links to Europe, Asia and the Middle East. From the start of 1994, Xinjiang Airlines has operated two new international air routes — Urumqi-Islamabad and Tianjin-Urumqi-Moscow — as well as three new domestic routes — Urumqi-Chongqing-Hong Kong, Urumqi-Zhengzhou-Qingdao and Urumqi-Chengdu-Kunming.

Six new routes linking Urumqi with major cities in the Commonwealth of Independent States are planned to come into operation in the near future.

Xinjiang has 31 domestic air routes and four international ones, linking it to major cities within China, and some cities in Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Xinjiang is the leader mileage-wise of China's airlines, and has pioneered flexible commercial airline operations. By the end of 1995, Xinjiang Airlines will have 25 planes.

Expansion of Urumqi Airport is a key state construction project, and should be finished by 1997. Costing around US$150 million, the project will include new runways, hangars and passenger areas. The region also plans to expand airports at Kashi, Yining, Hotan, Kuqa, Korla, Aksu, Altay and Tacheng.

New Nepal Link

An air route has opened between Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, and Shanghai, China's leading municipality on the eastern coast. A Nepalese Boeing 757 passenger plane will fly the route every Wednesday and Sunday from Kathmandu to Osaka in Japan, via Shanghai.

NEXT ISSUE

In our next issue, we travel to Shanghai, Chinas most fashionable and cosmopolitan city. Rapidly transforming itself into a financial, industrial and cultural powerhouse, we look at the changes going on in this magnificent and fascinating metropolis. We also look at Songhua Lake and the Songhua River in Jilin, one of the three provinces in China's Northeast, and many different styles that abound across the country.

The New Look of "Big Shanghai"

Shanghai's Kaleidoscopic Changes

The New Bund — Where Gold Flows and Colours Sparkle

A Natural Barrier Has Turned into a Thoroughfare?

Jilin's Songhua Lake and Songhua River

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